00086051

Digitized with financial assistance from the
Government of Maharashtra
on 20 February, 2016

MAP
to illustrate
"THE MILITARY POSITION OF
THE RUSSIANS IN
CIRCASSIA"
and the Operations there
in the Spring of
1840.
Sea of Azof
Kertch
Taman
Anapa
Gelendjik
Pchad
Tuapse
Sotchi
Adler
Gagri
Bombora
Soukoum Kaleh
Kodor
Ingour
Mingrelia
Abasa
Kouban
Laba
Kouma
Kouma
Kouma

NOTES OF A HALF-PAY

IN SEARCH OF HEALTH:

OR,

RUSSIA, CIRCASSIA, AND THE CRIMEA,

IN 1839-40.

3-9

BY

CAPTAIN JESSE

UNATTACHED.

86051 ac

"Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice."—OTHELLO.

VOL. II.

JAMES MADDEN AND CO.

LEADENHALL STREET.

1841.

914.7
Jfc|Nc2
86051

Ref
914.776

WILLIAM TYLER,
PRINTER,
BOLT COURT, LONDON.

CONTENTS OF VOL. II.

CHAPTER I.

Our Consul-general—His hospitality and kindness—Dr. Prout—Preparations for leaving Odessa—Stamped papers—Burcaucratie—Passport—Russian employés—A sign manual—The police-office—The public monitor—How attended to—Its sacred character—A gentleman brought to the triangles—The "friend" and his hat—A padaroshna—Heavy marching order—Prophecies and a splinter-bar—A false start 1

CHAPTER II.

A real start—Russian post-masters—Nicolaieff—Admiral Greig—The observatory—Dockyard—Timber and workmen—English machinery—Admiral Lazareff—A British sailor—A Russian sailor—The Black Sea Fleet—The model room—Barracks for the seamen—Ancient beads and lachrymatory—Admiralty of Cherson—A night in a post-house—The mirage—Advantage of mail axles—Anecdote of storks 13

CHAPTER III.

Military Colony—Uhlans and their horses—A general on the march —The ferry on the Dnieper—Krementchouk—Effects of a spring thaw—"Un homme distingué"—The Emperor upset—Pultava—Charles XII.—Monument to commemorate the victory—A made road—No road at all—Village of the Crown—Votka, and its effects —Kharkoff—The university—A girls' school fortified—The gardens and theatre—Russian crockery 30

CHAPTER IV.

Kharkoff hotels—A Russian stew—A lady nettled—Trotting matches —The Emperor's representative—A courier—Bell and belfreys—Three deep—The dog in the manger—Orel—The inn there—The governor—Mtsensk—A drunken representative—The village of Sergiefscoye—Wretched state of the inhabitants—Prince Gagarin—Tula—English hospitality—Machinery and manufactures—The somovar 42

CHAPTER V.

Leave Tula—The canvass bag useless—Dreadful scarcity—Crowds of women by the road-side—Russian absentees—Dead post-horses—The Emperor's return to St. Petersburgh—The port opened to foreign corn—Price at Odessa—Theory and practice—Repeal of the corn laws—Consequences of the measure—The cheap loaf—Query 55

CHAPTER VI.

Serpuchoff—The chaussée—A Russian road—Cheap posting—Post-houses—First view of Moscow—The French army—Their heroic courage—Arrival at Moscow—The old wooden houses—The Kremlin by sunset—Mrs. Howard—Restaurateurs 66

CHAPTER VII.

The interior of the Kremlin—The great bell—Tower of Ivan Veliki—View from it—Modern taste—The march of improvement—Ancient tower of the Tzars—Zuboff's house—The treasury—Relics of Peter the Great—Charles XII.—His litter—Russian trophies—The constitution of Poland—A drawing-room sledge—The Moscow riding-school—"Stepping out"—Catherine's whim—Church of St. Oua—The Patriarch's palace—A shipwrecked cannon—The holy gate—Cathedral of St. Basil—Oratory of the Virgin—Gardens of Peterskoi—Novel method of taking tea—The wooden theatre—Servants in liveries—No profits 76

CHAPTER VIII.

The Foundling Hospital—A regiment of picaninnies—The boys at dinner—The governor's surprise—The rural wet nurses—A new arrival—The ledgers—A permanent godmother—Advantage taken of the institution—Ladies masked—Effects of the system—The Donskoi monastery—Metropolitan of Archangel—Burial place of the nobility—Church music—The Sparrow hills—Villa of the Empress—Khoonsovar—The Rev. Mr. Camidge—Leave Moscow—The Petersburgh road—Post-houses—Distance and time . . 91

CHAPTER IX.

Approach to St. Petersburgh—The imperial mile-stones—Coulon's hotel—Mrs. Wilson's—Russian traktirs—View from the Isaac church—The Nevski prospect—English merchants—Winter palace—The vermin in it—Antiquities from Kertch—Collection of odds and ends—The Corps des Mines—Church in the citadel—Church of the Smolna monastery—Alexander Nefski—Sir A. W.—Amputation of Moreau's legs—His death 106

CHAPTER X.

Early history of the Russian army—The Strelitzes—Fortifications in ice—Dragoons first introduced—Peter the Great's improvements—Foreign officers—Strength of the army according to Balbi, Brué and Zimmerman—Marshal Marmont's account—His "encadrement"—Actual strength—Cossacks 120

CHAPTER XI.

Strength of officers—Low rate of pay—System of peculation—The "Fat and the Lean"—Naval employés—Raising the wind—Junior officers—Country quarters—Duties in barracks—No pensions—A soldier's gratitude—Officers degraded to the ranks—Rations—A soldier's mess—Arms, accoutrements, and necessaries—The guards in camp—The ornamental section—A striking character . . 136

CHAPTER XII.

System of recruiting—Conscripts—Their dread of the service—Entering—Leaving—The recruiting board—"Lop" and "Zatillac"—Native modesty—Suwaroff's catechism 148

CHAPTER XIII.

Efficiency of the army—General Yermoloff—General Mouravieff—Talent rewarded—The Russian soldier—His courage—Commissariat and medical departments—Suwaroff's pharmacopœia—"I don't know"—Invasion of India 164

CHAPTER XIV.

Russian civilization—St. Vladimir—Coinage—Ivan the Terrible—The fair of Narva—Michael Romanoff—Alexis—Fœdor—Peter the Great—His intelligence and persevering disposition—His cruelty and brutality—Foundation of St. Petersburgh—Legislation—Princess Daschkoff—Her character of Peter 175

CHAPTER XV.

Death of Peter the Great—Catherine—Peter II.—Elizabeth—Peter III.—Catherine the Great—Paul—Alexander . . . 190

CHAPTER XVI.

Accession of Nicholas—Military mania—The Imperial nursery—General Lamarque—Extent of civilization—Administration of the laws—Police—Customs—A living mummy—An exposé—The secret police 203

CHAPTER XVII.

The old nobility—Their influence not great—The new nobility—A military education—Retrograde feeling—March of intellect in Rus-

sia—A modest comparison—The clergy—"All devoted to study"—Method of ensuring sobriety—The Lycées—Charitable institutions—Imperial factories 222

CHAPTER XVIII.

Russian society—An absent lady—A dinner party—Turning out—Toilette of the ladies—At home and abroad—"Le peau de l'ours"—The Princess G.—The Prince G.—Three graces—Their proprietor . 236

CHAPTER XIX.

Russian hospitality—Reception of a field-marshal—Of a centurion—A Russian noble—His extravaganzas—A mesmerizer—A good Samaritan—Treatment of the Poles—Superstition of the Russian nobility—A new cure for tetanus—Miraculous medal—Litany . . 249

CHAPTER XX.

Russian nobility—Female education—Family attachments—Domestic character—Colonization—Foreigners—Russian workmen—Servants—Their habits—Treatment 266

CHAPTER XXI.

Serfs—Chérémétieff's—No prospect of emancipation—Their price—Sufferings—Revenge—Decency—Love of ardent spirits—Natural good qualities—Superstition—Fasting—Feasting—singular customs 279

CHAPTER XXII.

An Easter breakfast—Gormandizing—The weeping week—The ancients—Improvement of the serfs—Indifference of the nobility to the subject—False appearances—Guizot's definition of civilization—Conclusion 293

CHAPTER XXIII.

Leave St. Petersburgh—Stockholm—Château of Count Brahé—Upsala—Museum of Linnæus—The mines of Dannemora—A providential escape—Gripsholm—Ulricksdal—The Riddarhuset—The Palace—The Swedish Diet—The Gotha canal—Falls of Trolhatta—Locks there—Gottenburgh—Copenhagen—Hamburgh—Home . 307

ERRATA TO VOL. I.

Page 28, line 23, "Thessalian" for "Roumelian."

Page 223, line 10, "eleven" for "ten."

CHAPTER I.

Our Consul General—His hospitality and kindness—Dr. Prout—Preparations for leaving Odessa—Stamped paper—Bureaucratie—Passport—Russian employés—A sign manual—The police-office—The public monitor—How attended to—Its sacred character—A gentleman brought to the triangles—The "friend" and his hat—A padaroshna—Heavy marching order—Prophecies and a splinter-bar—A false start.

In April, the acacias in front of our windows began to put forth their leaves, and the clouds of dust proclaimed that as the roads were becoming passable, the time for our leaving Odessa drew near. But, before entering into any description of the preliminaries of our journey northwards, I must record, and I do it with heartfelt pleasure, my deep sense of gratitude to our high-minded and talented Consul General, Mr. Yeames, and his family, for the kindness and friendship manifested towards us by them during our stay. A portion of that kindness was extended under circumstances which make it impossible that it should ever be forgotten.

Obligations and feelings of the same nature induce me to mention the name of our excellent friend and countryman, Dr. Prout, whose professional skill was extremely valuable to me in a very severe illness, more particularly as it was accompanied by very great kindness of manner. These have gained for him—no easy thing for a foreigner in Russia—the respect and esteem of every one who has the good fortune of being known to him.

I was now recommended to bestir myself about my passport, which, from its being for the interior, would take some time as well as trouble to procure. In applying for it I had an opportunity of observing one of the numerous methods adopted by the Government of raising the wind, through the medium of stamped papers. All business in the public offices and courts of justice is carried on in writing, and no communication is received by the head of a department, unless the document has the Imperial eagle upon it. The price of the lowest stamped paper on which official business is transacted, is about seven pence of our money; and when the extent to which the system

of "bureaucratie" is carried is carefully considered, it will be evident that the sums raised in this manner must form an important item in the revenue. The vexatious delays I had experienced in procuring my Crimean passport were few, in comparison with what I encountered on this occasion. The first step it was necessary to take in so intricate an affair was, to go to the police office with my "carte-de-séjour." Before this document, however, could be forwarded to the police master, it was requisite that it should be accompanied by a petition, and as I could not write Russ, I had to look about the office for one of the numerous scriveners who make a livelihood by inditing these official "billet-doux." This was of course drawn out upon a stamp, and having given in the two papers, I departed, with an intimation that I might "call again to-morrow." Three hours were consumed in this preliminary step. The next morning, at the appointed hour, I was again at the office; and after having had the satisfaction of seeing the hand of the cuckoo-clock describe two circles, an understrapper announced to me the agreeable intelligence that I might follow him.

Keeping close to his heels, we threaded, or, rather, pushed our way through a crowd of petitioners, all of the lower orders, until my companion confronted me with a man in a green coat with brass buttons,—the civil uniform. This was only a chinovnik;* though, judging by his important manner, he might have been Count Benkendorf himself. I now observed that a third document had been appended to the two I left the day before; this being, as usual, on a stamp, I paid for it, and in the official catechism that followed, the gentleman in green was so pre-occupied, that he *forgot* to give me my change. The office jackal now took me to at least ten different persons, who signed and countersigned each paper; and after wheeling in and out of almost every room but the one I wished to get into, the principal one, I was brought back to my absent friend with the brass buttons; here I had to pay for another stamped paper, and have the "change taken out of me" again: my silent submission to this roguery procured me a low bow, with a request to leave the papers with him, and "call again to-morrow."

* An under clerk.

Before I left the office I was informed that this delay was to give the police time to inquire whether there were any claims against me in the town for debt. The following day I was once more at my post; but this time it was evident that the legal (though not the illegal) forms and demands had been complied with. My papers lay duly arranged upon the table, but the man in green paid no attention to me; and though many applicants were successful, the crowd around him appeared to increase, rather than diminish. I soon saw how matters stood; and feeling certain that, unless I followed the example of those who had retired, I should again be desired to "call again to-morrow," I put my hand into my pocket, a sign manual which this purveyor of signatures perfectly understood, and we effected an amicable exchange. Handing me the papers, he pocketed the silver, with the most perfect "sang froid," telling me, as he dropped the 52-copeck pieces into his pocket, that "the Imperial salary would not keep him in boots." I was now enabled to pass the sentry who guarded the entrance to the sanctum of the Chef de Police. His office, like

most other public ones in Russia, consisted of four bare walls, with a brick stove, reaching up to the ceiling, in one corner, and was furnished with a common deal table and a few chairs. Though a civil functionary, I found him in full uniform, and, as usual, radiant with orders.

The table was covered with papers, and in the centre stood the Palladium of the place. This extraordinary affair, which is to be seen in the principal room of every public office in Russia, is made of copper or iron, gilt, and though much larger than a Metronome, and having three sides instead of four, is not unlike one; the Imperial eagle crowns the apex. On this singular instrument of office is engraved a variety of instructions, addressed to those entrusted with the administration of the laws, and suitable advice respecting the great sin of bribery and corruption. This public monitor is said to have been devised by Peter the Great, whose anxiety on the subject appears to have been well founded. The person in the present instance, had accumulated a fortune that his net salary for one hundred years would never have amounted to. But his is not a solitary

case, for the respect paid to the mute admonitions of these tablets is in form only, and that is most religiously observed. As it is the representative of the Imperial power, no Russian enters the room without taking off his hat to it; the serfs carry this feeling still further, and I have observed many of them who had accidentally caught a glimpse of it from the adjoining room, bow as low to it as they would have done to the altar. Foreigners, ignorant of the sanctity of this emblem, not unfrequently meet with sharp rebuffs for their unwitting neglect in not saluting it. I was first awakened to the necessity of so doing by a threat of having my hat knocked off.

But the drollest anecdote connected with Russian "exigeance" regarding this custom was the case of the celebrated Mr. A., a member of the Society of Friends, who was *brought to the triangles* in the following manner. Accompanied by an English resident at Odessa, this gentleman went one morning to the post-office for his letters, but entered the principal room alone, of course without taking off his hat. Every one started to his feet at the sight; the chinovniks were petri-

fied at such an awful breach of decorum. "Take off your hat, sir," said the 'chef de bureau;' "don't you see the triangle?" but the delinquent and his hat remained unmoved. "Turn him out," cried the chinovniks; "turn him out" was "echoed about," and they were proceeding to extremities, when his friend hearing the uproar came in to his assistance, and stepped forward to explain. "This gentleman," said he, addressing the postmaster, "has kept his hat on in the Emperor's presence, surely he may do so before an iron triangle." "Impossible," observed the chief; "impossible," echoed the satellites. "Quite true, I can assure you," said the peace-maker, "for my friend Mr. A. is a Quaker." "A what?" inquired the man in office. "A Quaker." "What is that? which class does he belong to?"* And it required all his friend's influence, and he had a good deal, to get Mr. A. out of the office with his hat on his head.

But to return to my passport. The signature

* There are fourteen classes or grades between the Emperor and the lowest chinovnik. The same custom of ranks is said to prevail in China, It is singular enough the Russian word for rank is "chin," and in the Chinese language it is the same.

I had so long waited for was duly affixed, and I left the office; but not in possession of that document, for my three days of apparently "pas perdus" had merely procured me a certificate that I was not in debt, which happily I knew before. I had now to proceed to the office of the military governor, where two or three more bribes were administered, and another *triangle* or two propitiated before I could obtain it. Then it was of no use to me as a final measure, for as I intended to travel post I had still to present it at another office to get a padaroshna, or order for post-horses. There I was again obliged to show my certificate from the police that I had no debts, and two days more were consumed before I received the document which at length set me at liberty to start.*

The passport and padaroshna safe, we hastened the arrangements for our departure; in making which, we amply profited by the information

* The government charge for a padaroshna is two copecks per verst for each horse on the whole journey, which must be paid when it is applied for. I had four horses, and the distance to Moscow being 1383 versts, the amount was 110 roubles, 64 copecks. The applicant must also specify the exact route he intends to take, from which he cannot deviate.

gained from the gallery of the hotel during the summer. The rumble, instead of being packed with guide-books, maps, &c., &c., was filled with very different and infinitely more necessary articles. First came the "batterie de cuisine," in the shape of a brass casserole, the lid doing duty for a frying pan, and as every inch of room was of consequence, the tin tea-cups were fitted into the tea pot. There were also knives, forks, and spoons, tin plates, a spirit lamp, candlesticks and snuffers. The eatables came next; hunting beef prepared by our active and intelligent English servant; bread and biscuits, tea, sugar, and portable soup. The cellar, duly under lock and key, was placed in front of the carriage seat, and contained six good bottles of sherry, and one of rum, for French brandy is prohibited in this *free* port. As there was no chance of meeting with a bed, except in the towns of Kharkoff, Orel, and Tula, we were advised to take a canvass bag to be filled either with hay or straw, when we came to a halt. Sheets packed under the cushions, towels, and the somovar, completed what might fairly be termed heavy marching order, and our preparations were

more like those of people going to squat in the "far West," than to travel in a country which so loudly asserts her claim to be ranked amongst the most civilized nations of Europe.

It was strongly predicted that the English britzka would never stand such savage treatment, and we were doomed by most of our acquaintances to make at least half the journey in a telega, and occasionally to bivouac on the steppe. An officer of the guards, just arrived from Petersburgh, farther comforted us with the assurance that as some of the provinces near Moscow were suffering dreadfully from famine, and in a disturbed state, we had also every chance of being robbed.

The day at length arrived, and early in the morning the bearded, sheep-skinned postillion and his four horses, made their appearance at our door. As they were to be driven all abreast, it was necessary to lash on a false splinter-bar to the carriage, and this was about two feet longer at each end than our own. Rope traces were then permanently attached to the bar, for the postmasters never provide them, and they are adjusted to suit each horse at every station. It took two hours to

complete these arrangements; the horses in the mean time walked about the yard, turning round now and then to the footboard, to eat the straw placed there to prevent the driver's boots from doing more injury than necessary.

The four steeds and their harness would not have sold for £4 at the King-street bazaar; what the value of the yemstchik might be I cannot say. They were all the property of General N., a descendant of Peter the Great, who has the contract for furnishing both men and beasts on this road.

The mujik at last mounted, not his horse, but the box, for they always drive,—gathered up his ropes, and we left the town—but only to return: for, in descending the hill to the barrier, which is about a mile from it, the rumble, from the execrable state of the pavement, broke down, and we were obliged to retrace our steps. This was an unfortunate commencement, with 3000 versts before us; but it was some consolation to think that we were not on the steppe, fifty or a hundred miles from a blacksmith, and perhaps ten from any habitation.

CHAPTER II.

A real start—Russian post-masters—Nicolnieff—Admiral Greig—The observatory—Dockyard—Timber and workmen—English machinery—Admiral Lazareff—A British sailor—A Russian sailor—The Black Sea fleet—The model room—Barracks for the seamen—Ancient beads and lachrymatory—Admiralty of Cherson—A night in a post-house—The mirage—Advantage of mail axles—Anecdote of storks.

In three days the injury was repaired; and having, like Robinson Crusoe, lightened our craft of a great portion of our baggage, which was sent home by sea, we put a good face upon the matter, and started again on the 29th of May. The douaniers at the barrier were civil, and did their duty without giving us unnecessary annoyance, a comfort which was, I believe, owing to the kindness of the Director, the most amusing and agreeable Russian in Odessa. With the exception of the residence of General N., the whole suburb leading to the Custom-house consists of wood yards and mean houses. Our first station was,—

Adgelik, 18 versts. Post-house good; the track for the first six miles was up to the axles in sand, and the swing of the britzka was so great, that I fancied myself afloat rather than in a carriage. Looking back from hence, the site of Odessa was marked by clouds of dust, rising over it like smoke from a volcano. Here commenced the miseries of contending with Russian postmasters, which I gave up the next stage, for I found that a bribe was the only argument; when this salve failed, there was nothing to be done but take it quietly.

Coblefka, 28. *Tried* to sleep here. This village is called after an Englishman of the name of Cobley, who was a general officer in the Russian service. He is dead; and his son, who resides on the estate, does not speak a word of English. The post-house is wretched. I mention this at each stage, as a guide to others.

Krassnoi Traktir, 18. Here, as at every other place we stopped for the night, a guard was placed over the carriage, in compliance with the advice received from my Odessa friends. Post-house tolerable; civil people.

Shermelei, 20. Post-house good; passed some

very large flocks of merinos. The track near this station passes between two tumuli; there are many in the plain.

Varvarofka, 25. On the Bug. The inn is kept by a German, who has charge of the ferry. He was civil and obliging. The river here is nearly three versts in breadth: the wind was high, but the ferry-boat large and well served, and the carriage was placed on board with great care. The view upon the hill, in rear of the village, is remarkably fine; the junction of the Bug and Ingul forming a noble sheet of water. It took us nearly three-quarters of an hour to get across. The bank on the opposite side is sandy, and very steep, and our cattle were so bad that we had great difficulty in getting up the hill. The small dockyard near the ferry is a private speculation, and has not answered. We were half an hour getting across the sand to

NICOLAIEFF, 3. This town, founded by Potemkin, in 1791, is the principal dockyard of the Black Sea, and occupies a part of the tongue of land between the rivers Bug and Ingul. The houses, generally well built, are of one story, and being

washed either white or yellow, look very cheerful and clean. Large gardens are attached to them, the trees in which have a very pleasing effect, and appear to grow much better than those in Odessa. The streets are very wide, but like those of that town, are knee deep in mud during the spring and autumn, a mass of ice in winter, and two or three inches deep in dust in the summer. The boulevard and banks of the Ingul are very pretty and well planted, owing to the good taste of Admiral Greig, the former commander-in-chief, who took a great interest in the place. He is the son of the hero of Tschesme, and was the Richelieu of Nicolaieff. The admiral, though living, is seldom mentioned; the latter dead and forgotten, at least by those who owe him most. I never heard a Russian allude to him during my stay at Odessa. As a residence, Nicolaieff must be preferable to that town, though it has neither an Italian Opera, French theatre, nor English club; the heat and glare are much less.

We were most hospitably received here by an English friend. No one can understand the value of one in Russia, unless he has passed a night in

such a dog-hole as the post-house of Coblefka, and been without a comfortable meal for two days. The lions of the place are the Admiral's house, the observatory, dockyards, model-room, and barracks for the seamen. The first, a yellow oblong building, was erected by Potemkin. The gardens, still beautiful, were remarkably so in the days of Admiral Greig, who was not only an excellent botanist, but an equally good astronomer; the Observatory was built under his auspices. The present commander-in-chief of the Black Sea fleet served in our navy, and has the reputation of being a good seaman; but judging from the dilapidated state of this building, he is not the scientific man his predecessor was. The upper story is in such a wretched condition that the falling plaster has obliged the astronomer to remove his instruments to the lower one. This gentleman, a most amiable man, is a Livonian, and well known to the scientific world by his map of the fixed stars. The transit instruments are from Munich, and the time-pieces English. Here I saw for the first time a pendulum to mark the variation of the piers, between which the transit

instrument is placed. The dockyard is extensive; but all is not gold that glitters; it was in wretched order, and, with one exception, the slips are uncovered. Some of them are in cuttings in the cliff. Of the four line-of-battle ships on the stocks, the largest was the Twelve Apostles, a three-decker; the dimensions exceeded those of the Royal William, which, if we except the Trafalgar, now building, is said to be the largest man of war in the world. I went on board one of the fir corvettes. The wood used in her construction appeared to be of a very inferior description, and her seams were so open, from exposure to the sun, that on going below I found her lower deck a couple of inches deep in rain water; she was to be launched in a few days. Most of the ships built here are laid down from the lines of English men of war, the drawings of which are obtained from England. The corvettes and schooners are, generally speaking, fitted up with great care; large sums are thrown away on ornamental carving, in mahogany, rosewood, and maple, &c. These vessels are generally sent into the Mediterranean, and as they have picked crews, they give a far

more favourable impression of the Black Sea fleet than it deserves.

With the exception of what can be stowed under two sheds, the timber in this yard is exposed to the weather, and the oak, the greater part Polish, though of a good kind, is green. In the boat-houses, where the best seasoned timber is made use of for the gigs and cutters, I remarked that many planks had shrunk full a quarter of an inch that had only been laid down a fortnight. The fact is, they have no stores of seasoned wood, for it is used up very soon after it comes in. As there are no dry docks, the ships are coppered on the stocks; from their exposure during the whole period of their building, and the new materials used in their construction, they are generally like the Warsaw, which I saw at Sevastopol, rotten in eight years. Half the fleet would not be able to stand the weather in the Black Sea in the winter. About 3000 men are employed in this yard; they are nearly all slaves, that is, peasants of the crown. Their services must not be estimated too highly, as a great portion of them are not only badly instructed in their different trades, but are also very

sluggish workmen. Some of them, as at Sevastopol, were persons who had been found roving about the country without passports, runaway serfs, and deserters from the army; many of them very fine looking men. There were likewise a few convicts in very heavy chains. The dockyard appeared animated, as the goverment had given orders for replacing several ships which had been lost on the coast of Circassia in the winter of 1838.

The mills here work only two pair of saws; the supply of planks, therefore, is very deficient, and it frequently happens that the shipwrights are at a stand-still for materials. A lathe and boring apparatus have recently been erected; the block machinery is to follow. They are all of English manufacture, as is also most of the machinery in use in Russia. The administration of Admiral Lazareff appears to be as good as the nature of the government, and the chicanery and venality of the employés, from the Minister of the Marine downwards, will allow.

He was absent on the coast of Circassia with the expedition intended to retake the forts which

the inhabitants of that country had carried in the winter. It is said that Admiral Lazareff is not desirous of being opposed to the English fleet, but is very eager to encounter the French. This speaks more for his courage than his judgment, for failure would be equally certain with either. England can afford to give Russia the mechanical means of endeavouring to rival her; neither money nor Ukase can create the British seaman. No!—here Nicholas must halt! He may order ships, like the Twelve Apostles, to be built, and guns from four-pounders to Paixhans, to be cast in unlimited numbers; but crews to man either the one or the other, neither he nor his successors can ever hope to have. The Turks excepted, the Russians are the afterguard of all the sailors in Europe. One cannot help smiling when contrasting the seamen of other nations with theirs. Look at a blue jacket in our own service! he is all ease and freedom, agile and muscular; his countenance is open, and bearing independent; and, though he shows implicit obedience under discipline, his demeanour is manly as well as respectful, and he is clean. The Russian sailor is neither fish nor

flesh, a kind of horse-marine. His head is nearly shaved, and his jacket of green cloth, made like a dragoon's, fits quite tight; this is buttoned all the way up the front, being padded out like one of Mr. Buckmaster's, made for a young cornet. His lower extremities are cased in Wellingtons! and on his head is a worsted forage cap, all on one side. If a mate, his pipe is stuck between the buttons of his jacket, like an eye-glass; and last, though certainly not least, when addressed by his officer, he uncaps, and bringing his feet together, stands, oh, ye tars! at what?—"at ease?" oh no! at "attention!" with his "little fingers down the seams, and thumbs pointing outwards."

The crews of the Black Sea fleet are wholly inefficient; to be convinced of this, it is only necessary to walk down to the pratique port at Odessa, and see a boat's crew land their commander from a line-of-battle ship. The naval power of Russia in this quarter is a chimera, and though immense sums have been, and are expended upon their fleet, the result is, not an effective force, but merely the appearance of one. It consists of thirteen sail.

From the dockyard we proceeded to the model and hydrographer's room; one or two lilliputian vessels in the former are completely rigged for the instruction of the students in the Naval School—rather an odd way of teaching them their duty! One of these models is said to have cost £20,000. The barracks for the seamen, and many other of the public buildings, were erected by Mr. Arkroyd, an English architect, in the employ of the Russian government. This gentleman kindly presented me with some beads, and a glass lachrymatory, found here in digging the foundations of the Naval Hospital. One of the beads is a vitrified substance, the others are cornelian. These relics are of very early date, and may be considered as having belonged to the primitive inhabitants of this part of the world. The tombs in which they were found were cut out of the coarse indurated limestone of the neighbourhood: the lachrymatory came, in all probability, from Olbia. The road to the Crimea turns off here, and goes through Cherson, near which is the tomb of Howard. The rope-walk is nearly all that remains of the once boasted Admiralty of

that place; this is under the superintendence of an Englishman.

We remained at Nicolaieff three days—most agreeable ones, and we shall long remember the welcome we received from our kind and hospitable friends.

The Ingul is crossed by an excellent bridge of boats, and looking back from a hill on our route, we had a fine view of the town and estuary beyond it. At

Kandibino, 24. We found a most wretched post-house, and overtook a Russian family from Odessa, travelling, like ourselves, to Moscow. Their coach was quite as high as the roof of the post-house.

Veilandova, 23. Post-house bad, but as it was too dark to proceed, we unpacked the rumble. The saucepan came out for an omelette, and the somavar for tea; sheets, towels, fur cloaks, &c., and the canvass bag followed, the latter to be stuffed with hay; but so great had been the drought, and the failure of the crops the year before, that neither that nor straw was to be had. There was no corn, for the same reason, and

the post-horses had nothing to eat but the long and coarse grass of the steppe. In spite of this, however, the animals got along wonderfully, and worked till they literally "died in harness." We were on the move before daybreak, for every hour may be considered lost when not advancing in these steppes. The fresh, alas! not free air, of the plain was quite inspiriting, after being shut up in these hovels overnight, but in this verdant desert there was nothing to interest. We sometimes travelled miles without seeing a habitation; the herds of cattle which had enlivened the steppe on the road, from Odessa to Nicolaieff had disappeared, and the only sounds that interrupted our meditations, were the droning song of the yemstchik, in which there were only two notes, and the dull noise of the carriage wheels as they rolled over the soft track. Towards evening the mirage, with all its beautiful deceptions, set in; a few tumuli occasionally loomed in the horizon, and surrounded by it, assumed the appearance of islands covered with trees, churches, and other buildings. In this delusive manner a pleasing variety in the landscape was sometimes presented

to our view, and though we knew it to be false, it was not the less acceptable. This mirage continued for days together, and always to the northward, sometimes coming very near; at other times it was only visible in the distance, and always much more distinct and evident towards evening.

Vodianaia, 20½. Post-house so so.

Makismofka, 16½. *Gromokleya*, 19. *Bobrinetz*, 15¼. The track between these stations was hard and good, and we flew over it, the four horses at full gallop. The britzka had mail axles, and the men, whose business it is to put grease on the wheels at each station, were not a little puzzled to make out why ours required none.

Kampaniefka, 24½. Bad ford. The last four post-houses were mere huts.

ELIZAVETGRAD, 24½. This is the head-quarters of the military colonies on this side of the Bug; the town is badly built, and the streets were full of mud. The Jewess at the post-house was civil, and her house on the opposite side of the road was tidily furnished. Ivanorak, near the entrance to the town, was the first pretty village we had seen; it was surrounded by trees, rather

an unusual occurrence in the steppe. In our journey this day, we passed several storks feeding close by the side of the track. Though there is nothing very picturesque in their long legs, certainly not in their long bills, (horrid sound!) their peculiar habits and attachment to man render them interesting. I heard it remarked by several persons at Athens, that when the Turks left that city after the revolution, the storks, which for generations had built on almost every house in the town, immediately deserted it. There are great numbers of these birds in the south of Russia: before migrating, which they always do at the approach of winter, they assemble from all parts, and kill the young ones that are not strong enough to accompany them in their long flight. This characteristic is remarkable, and in strong contrast to the affection they generally display towards their young. Of this, the following anecdote related to me by a merchant of my acquaintance, is an example. He was on his way to Kharkoff, when he observed one evening several peasants assembled round something in a field near a village; ordering the yemstchik to stop,

he alighted from his carriage, and went up to them to see what was going on. Arriving at the spot, he found that they were looking at two dead storks, which were lying on the grass, and upon his inquiring the reason of their taking such an interest in these birds, one of the bystanders gave him the following singular account of their death: The storks had a nest in the field they were then lying in: the hen bird had been seen sitting that morning, the male having left her as usual in search of food; during his absence, the lady, either with the same intention, or to have a bit of gossip with some of the female storks in the neighbourhood, also took her departure. No sooner had she left her nest, than a species of hawk very common in the steppe, seeing the eggs unprotected, pounced upon and sucked them. A short time after this, the male bird returned, and finding them destroyed, he threw himself down upon the shells, and gave way to every demonstration of grief. The female also returned, but immediately he observed her coming, he ran up, attacked her with his beak, and seizing her between his claws, soared up with her to a great

height. He then compressed his own wings, and both falling to the ground together they were killed. It was night before we reached

Adjiamca, 22. Slept here. The post-house was pretty good, but the post-master a thorough-paced rogue.

CHAPTER III.

Military Colony—Uhlans and their horses—A general on the march—The ferry on the Dnieper—Krementchouk—Effects of a spring thaw—"Un homme distingué"—The Emperor upset—Pultava—Charles XII.—Monument to commemorate the victory—A made road—No road at all—Village of the Crown—Votka, and its effects—Kharkoff—The university—A girls' school fortified—The gardens and theatre—Russian crockery.

We left at daybreak. This village is a military colony, and we saw on the outskirts of it two troops at exercise. The horses were remarkably powerful-looking animals, but rather heavy for Uhlans; many of them would have fetched from fifty to eighty guineas in England. The officers were splendidly mounted.

Novaja Praga, 23. Bad post-house.

Alexandria, 21. Post-house very good, and the master civil. A bolt of one of the hind springs broke as we entered the town. I got another made, but with difficulty, and was under the necessity of taking the pincers in hand myself, for the

man was inexpressibly stupid. While our repairs were going on, a Russian General, travelling "en famille," came up. His wife, "a charming woman," was dressed most bewitchingly, and formed a strange contrast to her husband, who entered the post-house in his dressing-gown, and a crimson cap embroidered in gold, with a tassel at least a foot long. Though in this extraordinary dishabille, he had not forgotten his orders; these, six in number, (for I counted them,) were strung in most happy confusion round his neck, to insure him obedience and respect at the post-houses. We fell into conversation, for in the steppe no one waits for an introduction, and I found he had just come from Cherson.

Svetina Balka, 27. Wretched post-house. The first view of the Dnieper was very fine; to arrive at the banks we had to wade through heavy sand up to the axles. The flies were also in myriads, and their bites very strong and stinging.

KREMENTCHOUK, 24½. This is a large town on the Dnieper. Nothing could be more animated than the scene at the ferry. Hundreds of bullock-

carts were crowding to it, and the oxen of those that had already reached it were lying down in their yokes, waiting till their turn should arrive to cross the river; their drivers, assembled in knots amongst them, were stretched upon the ground, either asleep, or wiling away their time with a pipe. These groups, with the domes and white houses of Krementchouk on the opposite side, the low sandy banks of the river, and the vast expanse of waters, calm, but rapid, brought to my memory the Ganges at some frequented Ghaut, and revived many recollections of former days passed in the distant East.

The tinkling sounds of a kind of mandolin, played by some itinerant musicians in one of the ferry boats, and a brilliant sunset, tended not a little to strengthen the illusion, but it was quickly dispelled by the Russian uniform of the employé, who touched me on the shoulder, and demanded my passport. We were some time in crossing, and landed a considerable distance below the town. The houses, so pleasing in their appearance at a distance, were very mean, and generally of one story; the streets were axle-deep in mud,

and our progress to the post-house was at a foot's pace; this will give some idea of the effects of a spring thaw in Russia: it was now the fifth of June. We slept here; the people were Jews; they were civil, and the accommodation was pretty good. My interpreter, who was going to Moscow to take out his diploma, was also of that nation, and we consequently fared well. The fellow was a great oddity, and often amused us exceedingly. This evening, when smoking our chibouques together on the gallery outside the house, we fell into a discussion about the Pentateuch, of which he appeared to believe very little, and he concluded the conversation by remarking in his broken French, "Ah ma fi je ni entend pas guère â cis choses—Mais Moïse—ma fi, oui, c'était un homme distingué." We left at daybreak. The track to the next station was a sandy marsh, and the wooden bridges at the ravines were infamous.

Omelnik, 22. The post-house the same. The Emperor, on his route to the Crimea was upset near here, a fact duly recounted to every traveller by the yemstchiks; rather a fortunate thing for

them, as it finds them something to talk about besides the windmills.

Petsham Pieski, 12. The country now became better cultivated, and the crops looked well. Post-house bad.

Kirilofska, 23. Post-house bad.

Reshetilofka, 18. Ditto. Track execrable.

Kuralechovo, 18. Wretched post-house.

PULTAVA, 17. The track continued execrable, being over hillocks of hard dried mud, and having been detained for horses, it was near midnight before we entered the town. Though containing 12,000 inhabitants there is no inn, and we therefore made our way to the post-house, a wretched building, which we found partly occupied. The next morning we drove to the "place" to see the monument erected to commemorate the victory of Peter the Great. It is an ill-proportioned iron column of some unknown order, surmounted by a helmet with the vizor down. Pultava is perhaps the most interesting spot in Russia, for it is identified with the misfortunes of Charles XII., a hero who, though governed by an insatiable spirit of conquest, it is impossible not to admire far more

than his calculating and barbarous victor. Comparisons may be odious, but they will naturally arise when the traveller is looking upon the arena of such a struggle. For myself I had decided in favour of the "glorious madman" years before I saw the walls of Pultava: who, with any generous feeling, could do otherwise? With the exception of Patkul's case, he committed few unjustifiable actions, and certainly had many chivalrous and fine points of character, while the life of his adversary was sullied with atrocities of all kinds. The town stands splendidly on a high hill; close to it is another, crowned by a church; the river Boursk winds along the foot of them, and crosses the marshy plain to a wood at some distance. The track by which we left Pultava was the most abominable we had yet seen; even within the gates great branches of trees were laid across it, to prevent carriages from sinking, and the jolting over this "corduroy" was quite dislocating. About two miles from the town it turned into a forest of willows, emerging from which we literally stuck fast; the sand was so deep as almost to cover the nave of the wheel. Our attempts to move the

britzka were ineffectual; I saw it was useless to urge the horses, for they had done their best, and I therefore interrupted the yemstchik's unrelenting application of his short heavy whip. At the expiration of half-an-hour a mujik most fortunately passed with some oxen, and yoking on two pair we were drawn out of our dilemma, and through two miles more of sand; that is, the carriage, for we all had to walk. The sand-flies, though invisible, worried us the whole time. At either end of this stage extra horses are absolutely necessary.

Dudnikoff, 20. Post-house bad, though better than some.

Vanioffka, 16. Wretched post-house.

Colomak, 28. The post-house small, but clean.

Valki, 25. Post-house good. The country near here is pretty and well wooded. The villages in the neighbourhood are the property of the Crown, and appeared to be in much better order than those of private individuals. Each house was enclosed by wattle fencing. I went into several, and found in some an evident air of ease and competence, which I never saw equalled

amongst the peasants of other proprietors. Though we obtained excellent milk and eggs for a mere trifle, I could get no butter, and was told that none was made. There was plenty of votka, however, and I was not allowed to leave one of the houses I entered without swallowing a glass; this act of hospitality *brought the very tears into my eyes*. Nothing is done in Russia without this dew of the steppes. T. De Marigny, in his work on Circassia, says that a Russian soldier who had been in captivity thirty years in that country, remembered nothing of his native language but the word "votka." Though the weather was now exceedingly hot, the stoves were heated in nearly all the cottages I went into; it is quite astonishing how the Russians can support such a close atmosphere. In one I asked for a glass of water, and it was presented with a large piece of ice in it. This luxury is to be found in almost the poorest hovel. Slept at Valki: the post-master was civil, and the house clean.

Liubolin, 28. The country much wooded, and well cultivated. Post good. Excellent horses.

KHARKOFF, 28. The approach to this town is

through a sandy track, similar to that near Pultava, and extra horses were necessary. Large pine forests formed a fine back ground against which the gilded cupolas of the cathedral and the "campanile" stood out in brilliant relief.

Kharkoff has been much improved within the last few years. Most of the houses are built with good taste, and have far more appearance of comfort and finish than those of Odessa. A few of them are ornamented with cast-iron balconies; the roofs are of metal, and painted green. The streets were in wretched order, and a few hours' rain left pools of water in them a foot deep, often reaching from one side to the other. One had a crazy wooden trottoir down it. There was no draining, though the river afforded every facility for carrying such a desirable object into effect. The university is a large, but by no means handsome building; the chapel however is not so overloaded with pictures of saints, shrines, and gilding as usual. The theatre in which the students pass their examinations is a fine room. Over the door are medallions of the Seven Sages of Greece. The library was in terrible confusion; history ap-

peared to be the favourite study, for that compartment of the room which held the works on this subject was evidently the most frequented. The collection of philosophical instruments is extensive; the specimens in the museum were labelled in Russ only. The professors are Italian, German, and French, and one Englishman for the language.

Near the university is the cathedral, an ancient edifice, very massive, but, as in most cases in Russia, devoid of all architectural beauty. There is an upper story in this church where service is performed in the winter, when that part of it is warmed with stoves. The altar was covered with pictures, and gilding laid on with as much regard to taste as that on gingerbread kings at a fair. The Institute des Demoiselles Nobles which joins the public gardens is well situated. Two sentries were on duty at the gates, and the wall in the rear was surmounted by a chevaux-de-frise, either to keep the ladies in, or gentlemen out. This exhibition of military forms at a school for young girls had a very odd appearance. The gardens are prettily laid out, and kept in very good

order. The Chinese pagoda at the end of an avenue, by which they are entered, cost 30,000 roubles. It would have been dear at three. The walls were covered with the most obscene writing.

We went in the evening to the theatre. The performance was very respectable, and the play gave us a good idea of the manners of the Russian soldier. The plot was the old story, love in a difficulty; and the French were desperately cut up in it. The house was well attended, though very small, and the toilettes of two of the ladies who were present would have purchased the scenery, decorations, and even the theatre itself.

During our walks through the town, we were accompanied by our host, Mr. S., a German merchant, and a most kind-hearted, hospitable, and amiable man. He took us into several of the principal shops; many of them in the quarter where the fair was to be held in a few days. The first happened to be a crockery shop; the ware, of Russian manufacture, was from Kief; the patterns were French and English. Though the establishment at which they were made was superintended by a Swiss, the quality was extremely inferior to

that of English ware. The glazing would not stand the knife, and the price was 400 per cent. dearer than the same articles of ten times better quality would have been in England; but the prohibitive duties, as I have stated elsewhere, are quite effectual in preventing the sale of ours. Mr. S., who had settled here in connexion with a house at Odessa, had only disposed of one English tea-set in six months.*

The silversmiths were in great numbers; the principal objects of sale being articles used for ecclesiastical purposes. Amongst them were some very elegant censers, crosses, silver shrines, altar candlesticks, and sacramental plate. There were also a few platina snuff-boxes, but scarcely any trinkets.

* Since my return to England, I have heard that the speculation has been such a complete failure that he has returned to his partners in that town.

CHAPTER IV.

Kharkoff hotels—A Russian stew—A lady nettled—Trotting matches—The Emperor's representative—A courier—Bell and belfreys—Three deep—The *dog* in the manger—Orel—The inn there—The governor—Mtsensk—A drunken representative—The village of Sergiefscoye—Wretched state of the inhabitants—Prince Gagarin—Tula—English hospitality—Machinery and manufactures—The somovar.

THE hotels in this town are bad; the best is in the great square opposite the church. There is also an establishment of baths; and I tried one of these Russian stews for the first time. The great difference between them and the Turkish is the want of decency; in this, as in many other points, the Moslems are far more civilized than their neighbours. Instead of being ushered into a vast anteroom furnished with ottomans, fauteuils, bathing dress, and excellent attendance, I was shown into a dark, miserable room, ten feet by six, half filled with vapour. Here I was obliged to undress, and opening an inner door, I found myself in the bath-

room, not much larger. On one side was a kind of oven, on the other three steps built against the wall. The oven was full of large stones, red hot; and on the door being opened, and water thrown upon them the steam rose in large quantities. I soon found the temperature hot enough, and desired the attendant to close the stove door. He was perfectly naked, but the circumstance did not appear to surprise the Jew doctor, who went with me to interpret. The three steps were exactly similar to those in the concomerata sudatio of the Roman baths, as shown in the paintings found in the baths of Titus. These steps are of different degrees of heat; I found the lower one quite hot enough. When profuse perspiration had set in, some buckets of hot water were thrown over me, and the assistant, a perfect Hercules, inflicted a gentle flagellation with a bunch of lime twigs, having the leaves on. This so accelerated it, that I soon cried, "hold, enough!" more particularly as the doctor, who said he felt rather cold, called loudly for more steam, and opening the oven, nearly suffocated me by throwing in a fresh supply of water. From long habit, he could bear

being stewed almost to rags, and he said that unless he was so he did not like the bath. The ceremony closed by a lathering and drenching, the whole process being as disagreeable as the Turkish was pleasant.

In consequence of the method employed in raising the steam, the heat in these baths is very irregular; the comfort of being dried with hot linen was denied, and as Russians bring their own towels, or go without, it was with some difficulty that I obtained one. In fact, it was a most disgusting operation, which, having once tried, I determined never to submit to again.

Some Russian ladies become so used to the twigging process, that, by way of exciting the skin, and creating still greater perspiration, they make their attendants flog them with bunches of nettles. These baths ruin the complexion, and soon make those who indulge in them to excess look coarse and old; and it is passing strange, under these circumstances, the ladies should do so.

The wool fair of Kharkoff is the largest in Russia, it lasts a fortnight: manufactured goods

are also brought to it. The business done is calculated at several millions of roubles; but, strange to say, there is no banker in the town. The drives in the environs are pretty, particularly those near the river, on the banks of which there are large establishments for washing wool. Some of the horses brought in for the approaching fair, were fine animals. The ambling and trotting matches, which take place here on the river during the winter, are contested with great spirit. The drosky is the vehicle used on these occasions, and in the winter a light sledge; large sums of money frequently change hands. Before leaving the town, I was strongly advised to take the horses of the diligence, as the famine which raged in the provinces we were going through was so great, that nearly all those belonging to the post-masters had died. Having, however, paid for my padaroshna, I felt no inclination to lose my money, and continued my journey accordingly; but I was convinced of my error at the first station,

Lipsi, 28, where I was obliged to hire horses from the peasants. The track to this place was sandy, and the country very uninteresting; we

met large quantities of wool going to the fair. The post-house was good.

Tscheremoshnaje, 22. Post-house indifferent.

Belgorod, 26. Post-house bad. The Ispravnik at this station threw every difficulty in the way of our having horses. The bribe which I administered, as usual, was not large enough, for he rejected it with contempt, saying, though with an evidently painful effort, "Sir, I am the representative of the emperor, and scorn to take a bribe." Seeing, however, that I was about to leave the yard, to get horses in the town, he speedily altered his determination, and begged for a few copecks more.

Jacavlevo, 28. Met a courier, here, on his way to Tiflis; he had come from St. Petersburgh, viâ Moscow, in five days, and looked very little fatigued, considering the distance and the time. His telega did not come round for twenty minutes, the time allowed by Government; but he left the door of the post-house at full gallop. Bad accommodation here.

Kotshetovi Dvori, 20. Post-house pretty good.

Obojano, 18. Post-house good. The horses

were watered before starting, and upon inquiry, I found that such was the general custom.

Medvenca, 24. Post fairish.

Selichova Dvori, 18. Post-house so so. Slept here.

KOURSK, 17. The track near the bridge, a few miles from the town, was again axle deep in sand; in coming off it, we were very nearly upset in a marsh, close to the river; a hand's-breadth more, and we should have been suffocated. The yemstchik, but just sober, from his over-night's debauch, had been with the Russian army in France, and had the true cut of a marauding cossack. The whole of the sandy plain beyond where this narrow escape took place, was covered with the Forget-me-not. Extra horses are absolutely necessary at this stage.

This town is well built, and situated on two steep hills; the pavement was so execrable that we were obliged to go at foot pace. White bread is to be had here. The bells were all ringing for some religious ceremony, and made a most discordant din; no two amongst them harmonized. The Russians are passionately fond of them, but

instead of suspending them in a high belfry, they are very generally placed in a small low one, at a short distance from the church; and as we drove through the streets, we passed close under some that were upon a level with the top of the carriage. It was market-day, and there was much more movement than in any of the more southern towns; the costumes of the women from the neighbourhood were rather pretty, the handkerchief on their heads being neatly arranged; and their gowns, of gay colours, were a good deal embroidered. The post-house was very good, but we remained only to change horses, and pushed on to

Isakiefskoi dvori, 17. Post wretched.

Sorocovoi Colodetz, 23. Post so so.

Olchovatka, 21. Between this and the next station, the yemstchik had the kindness to drive us along a bank which had been made from the earth taken out of a ditch on that side of the track, and let the carriage drop into one of the drains cut across it; the place was certainly three feet deep, and the severe concussion damaged one of the hind springs. Having corded it up, we con-

tinued our journey. About ten o'clock, when it was quite dark, and we were nearly ten miles from Otshki, the injured spring fairly went in half, and being obliged to walk the horses the whole distance, we did not arrive there till two o'clock. Shortly after this "contre-temps" occurred, we came to a very small village, and thinking it advisable to lighten the britzka, I went into a farm-house with the doctor, to see if we could hire a cart to bring on some of the luggage; we saw several in the yard, but the owner would not lend us one for love or money.

Otshki, 16. Here neither blacksmith, white-smith, locksmith, nor any smith, James or Horace, was to be found; so having placed thick pieces of leather between the springs to prevent friction, and secured them with rope and a Spanish windlass, we continued our route to

Mocretzi, 25. Post-house so so. Employé civil.

Khotetovo, 25. Ditto, ditto.

OREL, 23. A large town of the government of that name. The streets are as badly paved as those of Koursk; the houses in the lower part,

near the river, are mean, and built of wood; those in the upper part, good. The public buildings are handsome; the gardens the same, and the view from them, rather a singular thing on this route, is very beautiful and extensive. The post-house is a wretched hut; but the inn near it is the best on the road, and the charges are moderate. We had desperate accounts here of the want of horses, and wretched state of the track. Having a letter for the governor, and thinking it might be of some use to us in facilitating our journey, I left it at his house over night, and called the next morning; but he was so beset by his employés, who had met to congratulate him on his return from St. Petersburgh, that I did not see him till a few minutes before leaving the town, when he was all civility. The apparent neglect of leaving my letter unnoticed arose from my having been mistaken for a German adventurer, who had been seeking for employment under a similar name, or at least one that seemed so to the Russian servants.

Otroda, 25. Post-house so so.

Mtsensk, 27. Passable post-house. The Emperor's representative at this station was so blind

drunk that he could not get off his bench; it was a fête day, and almost every third man we met was in the same state. As this official, who ranks with a sergeant in the army, was "hors de combat," considerable delay ensued, for we were obliged to wait till his wife could find some one to enter the padaroshna for him. Great care should be taken of this paper, as it must be shown at each post before the postmaster dare supply the traveller with horses, and when once mislaid or lost, he must continue his journey with the wretched rozinantes of the peasants, subject to the greatest imposition. These entries are a piece of police machinery, and by them the government may always ascertain not only the precise route of every person travelling with post-horses, but the day and hour of their arrival at, and departure from each station. The Ispravnik has also another book, in which travellers may enter any complaint they have to make against the postmaster; but as they both pull in the same boat, he is quite sure to give a false one. There were sixteen large churches here, but the population of this town is only five thousand.

Skuratovo Bolshoi, 25¼. The post-house swarmed with cockroaches, which crawled over the bread and butter and into the cups, as we hurried over our tea. The house was built of pine logs, the interstices being filled with hemp. It was now daylight at one o'clock, and we made our escape as soon as we could to,

Skuratovo Malencoi, 18. Post-house so so.

Sergiefscoi, 26½. Wretched post-house. The proprietor of this village and its inhabitants is a Prince Gagarin, whose house stands on the hill above it. The people appeared to be in a most destitute state, and beggars were in great numbers. Any thing more deplorable than the state of this village just under the proprietor's eyes cannot well be imagined.

Salova, 24¾. Post-house good.

Iassnaia Poliana, 18. Post-house bad.

TULA, 17. The post-house bad, and the inn very nearly the same. We were most hospitably received here by Mr. Jones, an Englishman, at the head of the Imperial establishment for the manufacture of fire arms. In his company, and that of Mr. Trewheller, I visited the works, which are put

in motion by an eighty horse-power engine. When the new ones, erecting under the superintendence of the latter gentleman, are finished, the lathes and all the machinery will be turned by water running from the river, through cylinders of iron, about six feet in diameter. There will also be a heating apparatus, which will prevent the action of the machinery from being interrupted by any degree of frost. These works will not be finished for two years. The muskets are neatly made, and lighter than ours, but they do not carry with the same degree of precision. This place is the Russian Birmingham; but every article of hardware is wretchedly inferior to, and much dearer than ours. I have mentioned in another part of this work the practice of counterfeiting the English mark on the cutlery. The ornamental work in steel is not to be compared to that of Prussia. The staple article of manufacture is the Somovar. Most of these tea-urns are made in brass, but copper and lackered ones have lately been introduced; the patterns of the most expensive are taken from the English ones. Tula supplies nearly the whole of Russia with this useful

and economical appendage to housekeeping; it is particularly so in a country where fuel is frequently so very scarce. Three bits of charcoal, the size of an orange, will boil enough water to make tea for a large family.

CHAPTER V.

Leave Tula—The canvass bag useless—Dreadful scarcity—Crowds of women by the road-side—Russian absentees—Dead post-horses—The Emperor's return to St. Petersburgh—The port opened to foreign corn—Price at Odessa—Theory and practice—Repeal of the corn laws—Consequences of the measure—The cheap loaf—Query.

THE spring of the carriage, which had held up admirably from Otshki, was mended here, and having taken leave of our kind friends, Mr. Jones and Mr. Trewheller, we continued our journey to

Volotja, 23. Post-house bad.

Vashani, 22. Post-house bad. In travelling through this and the adjoining provinces we found that the accounts we had heard at Odessa of the famine raging in them were by no means exaggerated. Several parts of the track between Orel and Tula were lined with women and children from the villages at a distance, as well as those in

the neighbourhood. Our canvass bag had become useless, for neither hay nor straw could be procured at the post stations.

This day we found whole families lying by the side of the track craving for food. On making inquiries, through my interpreter, I found that many of them had slept in the open steppe for several days, living upon the precarious assistance they received from the few travellers who passed. Their husbands, indeed all the men, had left them for the south, where there was less distress: more than once during our journey we had met them in parties of twenty and thirty at a time. This district, and the town of Tula, were only kept quiet by the presence of a division of infantry, encamped near the suburb by which we entered. The artizans employed at the Imperial manufactory of arms were well enough off, as they had their meal and flour served out to them at a fixed price all the year round; fluctuation, therefore, was of no consequence to them—the rest were in a wretched state. Formerly provision was made against such a calamity by housing large quantities of grain, which was supplied by each proprietor, according

to the number of serfs he possessed; but these stores sometimes perished, from want of care and bad granaries, and were also materially reduced by peculation. Besides this, the nobility, always in difficulties, thought it would be more to their advantage to get interest upon the value of the corn thus lying idle. The subscriptions were therefore taken in money instead of in kind, and the sums collected were placed in the Lombard bank, or other government securities. The absurdity of this system was proved in the present instance; the money was useless, there was neither rye nor wheat to be bought either in these provinces or at St. Petersburgh. The owners of the serfs were interested in keeping them alive, if not from motives of humanity, at least as property; but where were they? on their estates, exerting themselves to soften or relieve the miseries of their dependants? No, at Rome, Vienna, or the German watering-places, gambling away the money received for the corn their toil had raised, and for want of a portion of which they were now starving. One of these absentees, with whom I was one day in conversation, told me that he had just returned from

his estates in White Russia, adding, "It is the first time I ever saw my peasants."

Before leaving Tula, I was recommended to provide myself with a bag of coppers, to rid us in some degree of importunity, which it was impossible to satisfy. As long as they lasted, I continued to throw them amongst the hungry crowd, reserving some for those who thronged the carriage when we stopped to change horses. As the copecks fell amongst them, the women, many of them with children at the breast, tumbled over one another, regardless of all decency, in the struggle that ensued. This scene of wretchedness was completed by the dead post-horses on the side and in the middle of the track, which had perished, not from fatigue or ill-usage, but from want of forage. Their carcasses were in all stages of putrefaction, surrounded by crows, sometimes so gorged that they scarcely took any notice of the britzka as it drove by.

The Emperor was at Kiel, in Holstein, when he was made acquainted with the deplorable state of the country. He hurried back to his capital, with his usual celerity, no little exasperated at the mis-

management and want of forethought which had been shown by the governors of these provinces; and the length of time that he had been left in ignorance of the real extent of the calamity.

On his arrival, the port of St. Petersburgh was opened to the introduction of foreign corn; but the relief was tardy, and the sufferers were seven hundred miles in the interior. The scarcity, though not so great, was severely felt in the southern provinces; but the price of corn had risen too high this spring for much to be exported from Odessa. It had increased all the winter, not only from the demand being great, but from the scarcity of the article. During our stay there, it had doubled in value; and a chetvert, which, on our arrival in the spring of 1839, was fourteen roubles, was in the following spring thirty roubles. The prices in the governments of Orel, Tula, and Moscow, were increased seven times beyond the usual quotations —and the poorest inhabitants in these provinces were reduced to grind up the bark of trees with the little rye flour they could get! And yet we are informed by Mr. M'Culloch, "that in a country like Poland or Russia, uniformly in the habit

of exporting corn to other countries, a restriction on importation would be of no material consequence." Habit! what has "habit" to do with the course of nature, the floods, the after-frosts, and the droughts? are they to be brought under the rule of three of commerce and manufactures, and their effects estimated by figures and horse-power?

This gentleman further observes, "that a restriction on importation is only sensibly felt when it is enforced in a country which, owing to the greater density of its population, and the limited extent of its fertile land, would either occasionally or uniformly import."

We have a pretty example of the soundness of this theory in the state of these provinces. What does this great scarcity in Russia prove, but that an absolute restriction upon the importation of foreign corn may be as injurious to an excessively rich and half-populated corn country, as to one whose "density of population and limited extent of fertile land would either occasionally or uniformly import?"

It is readily allowed by those who know any thing of Russia, that there is no country in Europe

in which it is so difficult to obtain correct statistics. Figures are not always facts, and Mr. M'Culloch's errors extend even to the rate of exchange between the two countries.

Many of the statements sent to England from Russia, are made by those who are deeply interested in the prospect of an open trade in corn with England. They should, therefore, be carefully weighed before they are credited,—certainly before they are adopted in support of arguments upon which it is in contemplation to found legislative enactments of such an important character as the alteration of our corn-laws; a change which, like all others in these days, must be extreme to be considered either good or useful. A very large portion of that party in England, who clamour so loudly against them, admit, without disguise, that they only wish to modify them as a preliminary measure to their total repeal. Should they succeed, what will be the position of England, with her "dense population," having an insufficient, though considerable corn produce, if she becomes entirely dependent upon an imported supply ?*

* A report has been submitted to the houses of Parliament

Without, however, throwing away time in the consideration of vague, hearsay, and interested statements, let the known shipping prices at Odessa speak for themselves. Wheat has been sold there—and there is no reason why it should not be again —at fourteen shillings the quarter. Will an eight shillings duty, under such circumstances, be a sufficient protection at home? It cannot; and the cultivation of corn must be suspended. Thus situated, we may, as we have already done, see Russia the country from which our supplies are to be drawn, in the same condition as when I went through the governments in question, that is, in a state of starvation. Where, then, as far as Russia is concerned, (and even now her exports of corn to this country extend to some millions of quarters per annum), is our bread? where is the safety from fluctuating prices? So far from having obtained that desirable object, we shall be

this year, which states that 55,000,000 chetverts or 38,500,000 quarters of corn were produced in the government of Tamboff in one year—1835. It may be as well to observe, that the government of Tamboff is immediately adjoining those provinces in which the scarcity I have described occurred.

subject to more violent extremes than we have been under the existing laws. Is there any certainty, nay, probability, that when the cultivation of corn in England is given up, (the inevitable result of a repeal), we can command the necessary supplies of grain from Russia? What security is there that the Russian nobility, (the real corn merchants), when certain of the English market, will not, in times even of abundance, raise the prices far above what they are now? and, more than this, what security is there that the Government, which is absolute, will not demand an export duty?—an Ukase will do it. It may be said that Russia is not the only country from which we shall receive our supplies;—granted. But a strike for increased price, or a deficiency on her part, would be severely felt. Moreover, does it suit the ideas or feelings of Englishmen to have their resources placed in any degree at the mercy of the Autocrat of all the Russias? What is to happen in the event of a continental war? has the policy of Russia in Persia and Central Asia been so honest that we should be justified in trusting her, even in *peace*? she is quite as likely to

form an alliance with any enemy we might have, to-morrow, as to keep her faith with us. In either of these cases, where is the *cheap loaf?*

When I hear it stated that Russia is one of the countries upon which we may in future possibly depend for bread, which, having been much on the continent, I invariably eat " à discretion," the inward man exclaims loudly against a *measure* so likely to be *short!*

With regard to the advantages we are to gain by her taking an increased quantity of manufactures, the idea is altogether a delusion; she will not alter her prohibitive tariff, nor is the mass of the people sufficiently advanced in their social system to require any, even of the most ordinary, comforts of civilization; and if they were so, they have no money to go to market with. Let the working classes in England, whose expectations have been so much raised on this subject, be clearly made to understand the state of the poor in Russia, in times of *plenty*, and not be misled by the false idea that where corn is cheap there can be no distress; nor take it for granted that their wages will remain high when the price of bread is low,

supposing—which it is evident still remains quite a chance—the loaf is a *cheap loaf*, after all.

The low price of wheat in Russia, and the high price of wheat in England, are constantly compared, and it is asserted that the poorer classes in the former country are better off than those in the latter;—that the condition of a Russian serf is better than that of a poor man in England; when, in fact, there is perhaps no country in which more squalid poverty exists than in the great corn districts of Russia, where, in an average harvest, *rye*, (*not wheat*,) *the staple article of food*, is only *five shillings the quarter!!!*

CHAPTER VI.

Serpuchoff—The chausée—A Russian road—Cheap posting—Post-houses—First view of Moscow—The French army—Their heroic courage—Arrival at Moscow—The old wooden houses—The Kremlin by sunset—Mrs. Howard—Restaurateurs.

Vedmenskaïa Savod, 19½. The track to this place was deplorably bad. The view from the hill above the river Okha, with the domes of Serpuchoff, and the dark line of forest in the distance, was very beautiful. Crossed by an excellent bridge of boats to the town of

SERPUCHOFF, 31½. There is a large garrison here. The houses are well built, and the inn excellent. The sight of the chaussée, which commences at this place, was hailed as joyfully as land from the mast-head, after a four months' voyage. We now reduced our post-horses to three, and went along at a merry pace to

Lopassnia, 27. Post-house good. The road runs through a forest of stunted firs, to

Podolsk, 32. Good inn on the right, half-way up the village; we had some beer here, very passable. The stage into

Moscow, 35. Is a post Imperial, and double posting is charged. The macadamized road ceases at Podolsk, and we were once more at sea.

The whole distance from Odessa is a mere track marked by verst-posts, about ten feet high on each side, and by them the traveller is guided across the open steppe; but these posts do not determine the width of the road; each carriage picks its own way, either a hundred yards, or half a mile, to the right or left, as the horses or driver may think fit. This track cannot be called a road; it is merely traced over the natural soil by one vehicle after another; there is not a shovelfull of material laid down, nor is there any fencing or draining. In the winter, the verst-posts are the compass of the steppe, and without them it would be impossible to proceed, after heavy falls of snow; in this season, the track is so uneven, that persons are constantly thrown out of their sledges by the

violent jolts. In wet weather it is almost impassable, and after the thaw has set in, quite so for a few weeks. Traffic is then almost suspended, and the transport of the mails is a service of great danger, as the wooden bridges, which have been taken up during the winter, are not replaced till the weather is settled; the yagers are frequently obliged to pass the rivers on rafts. In the latter part of the spring, the ground is suddenly hardened by the slight frosts which follow the thaw, and in the summer retains all the inequalities it then had, presenting, particularly through forests where the track is narrow, and consequently more cut up, a series of ruts, holes, and hillocks. In the continued heat, which withers all the grass on the steppe, some inches of the surface is beaten into dust, and in a light wind, a handkerchief over the face is almost indispensable in travelling. The dust on a hot Derby day will give but a faint idea of it. In some places, a few trees are occasionally planted by the side of the track, but they are not much more picturesque, and certainly at this season, not more verdant than the verst-posts. When the Emperor is going to travel,

instructions are sent to the governors of the different provinces through which he intends to pass, to put the track in some sort of repair; should this circumstance chance to occur in the middle of harvest, the peasants are obliged to leave the crops and set to work.

The posting in Russia is very reasonable, but it varies in different parts of the country; from Odessa to Krementchouk it was ten copecks per verst for each horse, and from thence to Moscow only five; the expenses of posting with four horses, including the padaroshna, drivers, and bribes, were only £25, the distance being 922 English miles. In Russia, especial care should be taken never immediately to precede or follow a great man; but should even a corporal come up, "on service," while a traveller is changing horses, he will most assuredly take his if there are no others. In this way, a person may be, and is frequently, detained several hours or days, in some wretched post-house. As the postmasters carry the mails for Government without pay, they impose upon travellers accordingly. The best mode of proceeding is, to get a post-office courier, who

will be found a most excellent travelling companion, and the horses will move out of the stable by instinct at the sight of his uniform, his employer will have nothing to do but pay; oaths, time, and money will, in the end, be saved. His douceur is from a hundred to one hundred and fifty roubles, for the journey between Odessa and Moscow. A private courier is of very little use, except as an interpreter. The country is so detestably ugly and monotonous, that the great desideratum in going through it is to keep up perpetual motion; the scenery may be described in three words—steppe, morasses, pine forests.

The post-houses on the road we had come are frequently mere hovels, and commonly constructed of mud or pine logs; in the latter case they swarm with cockroaches. There is no accommodation beyond a table and wooden chairs, and the traveller has no right to expect more than to walk into the room next to that in which the padaroshnas are entered, and throw himself on the mud floor, or the wooden bench, and there take his rest, "if rest it be which thus convulses slumber," for on neither is he likely to sleep alone. Eggs and

milk are generally to be obtained, and nothing else, but the black rye-bread; very good fare for a Russian or a Spartan; but if the traveller is neither one nor the other, he will find it a great inconvenience, and must provide against it by taking white enough from one large town to last him on to the next. I strongly recommend all tourists to keep out of the country, who are not inclined to rough it, not, however, on "beef-steaks and a bottle of port," but on short commons in every way. The somovar is always to be met with; the charge for lighting it is one source of gain to the post-master; the extreme price they ask a Russian is about twopence, a foreigner two or three roubles.

But our fatigues and vexations of all kinds were forgotten when, from an unexpected turn in the road, we saw the ancient capital of the Tzars in one "coup d'œil" at our feet. I thought what the feelings of the French army must have been when they caught the first view of her golden minarets, and starry domes, and on a nearer approach, the Kremlin burst upon their sight. The goal they had so long and earnestly desired

to arrive at, to rest awhile from their superhuman exploits, now lay before them, and they saw the army of their enemies retiring in the distance. At that moment, when the deafening shout of "Vive l'Empereur!" was raised by those gallant legions, we may conclude that not only their selfish chief was surfeited with the pride of conquest, but that his brave and faithful soldiers felt to a man repaid for all their unwearied though painful efforts.

The pages of Labaume, Segur, and Larrey, have shown how fearfully these successes terminated; still, though teeming with horrors, their descriptions fall short of the atrocities that were committed by the Russian troops and serfs upon the unfortunate men who perished in the retreat.

In speaking of this event, it too often happens that the grasping policy of Napoleon is alone remembered; and we lose sight of the heroic character of his army. While holding up that policy to execration, and deploring the power which he held and exercised over his followers, should we not admire their chivalrous conduct, and sympathise with their sufferings? However undeservedly,

what man was ever worshipped with such devotion, such abandonment of self? Not a murmur of reproach was heard against him in whom the awful calamities which they endured originated. No—with the assassin's knife, or the lance of the dastardly and ferocious Cossack at their throats, or in the protracted agonies of death by hunger, with the last spark of the vital principle leaving their frozen and gory bodies, they gave up their gallant spirits, calling—not upon their God but—on the Emperor! the author of all their miseries and untimely fate; on him who had immolated them on the altar of his demoniacal ambition. In approaching the city there was little to interrupt reflection. The entrance was by a wretched suburb; and having reached the barrier, we traversed a large open space before we came to the town itself.

Those who knew Moscow previously to the great fire, describe it as having been far more picturesque then than it is now, though not so well built; from the appearance of several of the old wooden houses which we now passed, this might easily be believed. Many of the windows and balconies were

ornamented with flowers; and the houses in this quarter stood singly, and were often surrounded by gardens or court-yards, full of trees. The streets appeared almost deserted; and we scarcely met a human being until we arrived at the iron bridge over the Moskwa, which forms the principal outlet from the Kitai Gorod, on this side of the town. As it was sunset, the workmen and shop-keepers from the great bazaar were hurrying to their homes, and gave us the first indication of a large population.

Passing under the high castellated walls of the Kremlin, we experienced no little pleasure in having reached this point of our journey; and, leaving the Cathedral of St. Basil on our right, we took up our quarters at the hotel of Germania, after a rough pull of seventeen travelling days. I found, when too late, that the Cheval was the best house. It is situated in the street through which the diligence passes. There is a restaurateur.

The boarding-house of our countrywoman, Mrs. Howard, is very dear; and the quantity, if not the quality, of her fare very meagre. Every

one is obliged to dine at the "table d'hôte," which frequently interferes with the arrangements for sight-seeing in the afternoon; and any thing out of the usual routine is charged at an enormous rate. The most independent plan is to take rooms at some hotel, and dine either at the French restaurateur's, on the Smith bridge, or at an Italian's, in the street near the hotel de l'Europe.

CHAPTER VII.

The interior of the Kremlin—The great bell—Tower of Ivan Veliki—View from it—Modern taste—The march of improvement—Ancient tower of the Tzars—Zuboff's house—The treasury—Relics of Peter the Great—Charles XII.—His litter—Russian trophies—The constitution of Poland—A drawing-room sledge—The Moscow riding-school—"Stepping out"—Catherine's whim—Church of St. Ona—The Patriarch's palace—A shipwrecked cannon—The holy gate—Cathedral of St. Basil—Oratory of the Virgin—Gardens of Peterskoi—Novel method of taking tea—The wooden theatre—Servants in liveries—No profits.

In this interesting city, the Kremlin was the object of our first drive; and on our arrival there, the istvostchik set us down by the Tzar Kolokol—the great bell cast by order of the empress Anne. This gigantic "communicator," twenty-two feet in diameter, and nearly twenty-three feet in height, has been raised from the ground, where it had remained for years, placed on a low circular granite wall, and consecrated as a chapel. The entrance to it is by an iron gate, and a few steps which descend into a cavity formed by the wall and the excavation made under it. This bell is

highly venerated, for the religious feelings of the people were worked upon at the time it was cast, and every one who had a fraction of the precious metals threw into the melting mass something either of silver or gold. The ornaments and the figure of the empress are in low relief, and wretchedly finished. Some suppose that the large fracture on the side was caused by its fall from the tower in which it was placed; but though its history is so recent, it is not known whether it was ever suspended or not. Near it stands the simple but commanding tower of Ivan Veliki, the summit of which is gained by a good staircase. The views from the belfry on each story prepared us for the one which was to reward our exertions in ascending.

Clustered round the base of the Veliki are the numerous gilt domes of the churches within the Kremlin, and those of the ancient and peculiar building called the Tower of the Kremlin. Amongst these are grouped the Treasury, the Bishop's Palace, and many other modern edifices, strangely out of keeping with the eastern architecture of the place. These are all enclosed by

the old walls, towers, and bastions of the fortress. Close to the Holy Gate, the green and white towers of which are surmounted by golden eagles, is the Cathedral of St. Basil, grotesque in form and colour; and, winding under the terrace of the Kremlin gardens, is the Moskwa, the silvery though narrow line of which may be traced far into the country. Round this brilliant centre stretches on every side the city and its suburbs, radiant in all the colours of the rainbow, which are used in the decoration of the roofs and walls of the churches and houses; the effect of this mosaic is heightened by the foliage of the trees, which grow in many parts of the town as well as on the banks of the river.

The Greek façade of the Foundling Hospital attracts attention from its immense length, and the style of its architecture, in such striking contrast with that of the town generally. The old monasteries, with their bright blue domes, "semé" with golden stars, and minarets gilt or coloured, particularly of the Seminoff and Donskoi surrounded by groves of trees, lie scattered on the skirts of the town. Beyond these are the Sparrow

Hills, from which Napoleon paused ere he descended to take possession of the deserted city. No view of any capital in Europe can be compared with that of Moscow from this tower, except that of Constantinople from the Galata or Seraskier's; which, however, surpasses it in beauty, for the horizon here is one unbroken line of dreary steppe, while at Stamboul the distance is formed by the sea of Marmora, and the snowy summits of Olympus.

In looking upon this cheerful though tranquil scene, where every thing around seemed fresh and new, it was difficult to reconcile its present appearance with the records of its calamities, the sieges and sackings, the massacres, famines, and plagues; and lastly, that fire which has thrown such a "prestige" over it, and brings its history down to our own days.

The Kremlin, within whose walls so many atrocities were committed, is now the spot on which the business of every-day life goes on; and there the edifices now erecting in modern taste, to make room for which some remnant of by-gone days is always sacrificed, will eventually annihilate the

little that exists with a claim to historical association in Russia. Nicholas is building a new palace, and to complete it, it is said he intends to remove the church of St. Saviour, the oldest in Moscow. It is very small; the roof and domes are simply painted green, and it looks humble amidst the profusion of golden spires that surround it.

Russia cannot spare historical monuments; but this, according to her ideas, is the march of improvement. Every thing must stand straight, and be whitewashed; even the old Kremlin walls cannot escape the plasterer's brush. Surely these people will some day puzzle old Time himself, for they knock away the few landmarks he has given them most unsparingly. But I must borrow his wings and fly to the ancient tower of the Tzars, at a short distance from the one in which I fell into this reverie. How this came to be called a tower, it would be difficult to say, for the roof has the appearance of a tent pitched upon the top of a house. It has lately been fitted up with great taste, and at present stands a happy exemption from the remark I have just made. The repairs have been designed in accordance with its ancient

style, with stained glass windows, and the stoves, carved mouldings and gilding restored to their original state. The pictures of the old Tzars that were canonized ornament the walls, and a Bible in splendid binding, with large clasps, was on the table in one of the rooms. From a window in the turret one house was particularly pointed out to us, not that there was any thing remarkable in its exterior, but it had belonged to Zuboff, who took such a prominent part in the murder of the emperor Paul. The conspirators who were concerned in this horrid deed held several of their meetings under its roof.

We were obliged to wait for a public day to see the Treasury, and found it crowded to excess. It presented an "omnium gatherum" of jewelry, armour, and saddlery, a description of which, even if desirable, could only be given in the form of a catalogue. The principal objects of interest were the crowns of Vladimir Monomachus, of Astrakan, Kazan, and Siberia; they were of indifferent execution, and evinced only barbarian splendour. There were relics without end of Peter the Great and his exploits, whether of valour or industry,

of the sword or the lathe. One shown with great triumph, is the litter in which Charles the XII. was carried after the battle of Pultava; it is made of ebony, or stained wood, and neatly turned in a pattern not unusual in arm-chairs of the present day; the worn and faded blue embroidered cushion looked as if it had once been exceedingly smart, and, considering the character and habits of the royal patient, it is not easy to account for his having such an elegant piece of furniture in his camp. In reading his history, we see him bereft, not only of luxuries, but necessaries, and obliged to put up with the rough contrivances that the best care and ingenuity of his followers could, in their destitution and difficulties, make for him; but Russian relic-mongers seem to be of opinion that the case was different. When they ask a traveller to believe that Charles ever sat in it, for he could not by any possibility have laid his leg up, they ought to add that Peter had the courtesy to make it for him. Standing near it are some Swedish kettle-drums, on which the conquerors have stuck Russian Eagles. A portrait of Catherine II., in man's attire, is a poor affair as

a picture, but said to be very like her; it bears the same stamp of countenance and features usually ascribed to her. Under that of Alexander are hung the keys of Zamosk and Warsaw; in a crimson and gold box at his feet, *is the constitution of Poland*, and on either side of him are the standards and Eagles of that country. It is impossible to see them there without regret; they are not merely the trophies of a victory which at a future time the fortune of war may turn the other way, but are monuments of the success of a series of political intrigues which have left Poland —the chivalrous Poland that, in the sixteenth century, stood between the West of Europe and the Turks—hopelessly enslaved, and consigned the best of her nobility to the mines of Oural and Siberia. In the rooms on the ground floor of this building are some state carriages of former sovereigns, and a sledge fitted up like a drawing-room, in which the Empress Elizabeth and twelve of her suite used to dine on their journey from Moscow to Petersburgh. There is a model of the roof of the "enormous" riding-school here, which supports itself without prop or pillar over an area of about 500 feet

by 280, within a few feet, by way of rough comparison, of the length of the Menai bridge. There is also another, of an ill-conceived and extravagant design of Catherine II. It appears she once had a fancy for destroying the Kremlin, and building a palace, which should occupy its site, and cover the whole space within its walls. Whether want of time, or want of funds, interfered with the execution of this whim, I know not; luckily for us, it got no farther than the model; but it is quite of a piece with one of the caricatures published in London in her day, which represents the Empress of all the Russias in the air, with one foot on the spire of the Admiralty at St. Petersburgh, and the other on the dome of St. Sophia at Constantinople: a step, by-the-bye, which, though somewhat more than thirty inches, Nicholas would not mind waving the martinet to take in the present day.

Besides the Cathedral of the Assumption, in which the Tzars, till the time of Peter, and all the Patriarchs, repose, and where the emperors are still crowned; there is also in the Kremlin that of the Annunciation, and the churches of

St. Michael and St. Oua. To the shrine of the latter, sick children are brought by their parents to be cured by miraculous interposition. The sacred treasures in these edifices are of immense value, but the execution of the paintings which cover the walls, is execrable, and the taste of the gaudy and gorgeous decorations truly in keeping with the material ideas of the people; it is painful to see them at their devotions amongst these pictures, alternately praying to them, and begging of the bystanders. Bowing and crossing, low enough and often enough, with a proper number of prostrations and thumps of their foreheads on the pavement, appear to realize their notions of a prayer. The steps, as well as the interior of all these churches, were beset with mendicants.

The palace, formerly the Patriarch's, is inhabited by the Emperor when he visits the city, and from the window near the terrace he shows himself to his subjects. The rooms are furnished with great simplicity, and, with the exception of some Polish standards, and a musket with which he teaches his boys the platoon exercise, there is

nothing to notice but a good Canaletto. It represents the Diet of Warsaw, at the election of Stanislas Augustus in 1764; and is signed at full length, Bernardo Belotto de Canaletto, 1778.

To those who have not seen a large arsenal, the one in the Kremlin will be found worthy of observation. The artillery piled up against the wall on the outside of the building was taken from the French during the retreat; there are also some pieces of other nations, but no British; I have heard it stated, but cannot vouch for the truth of the assertion, that a cannon with the broad arrow also graced these walls not many years ago; it had been taken from an English gun-boat, wrecked on the coast of Esthonia, and the circumstance of its having been placed in this collection, though not a fair "prise de guerre," being reported to our Ambassador, it was hinted that it had better be withdrawn.

The Spaskoi, or Holy Gate, is a conspicuous object in the wall of the Kremlin. Not a Russian, from the Emperor to the meanest mortal in his dominions, would pass under this venerated gateway without uncovering his head, let his

haste or errand be what it might. What tradition there may be to account for this is quite uncertain, but no doubt its patron saint, in days of yore, did the town good service, though now nobody knows what it was. The accumulated awe and gratitude of ages, is, however, still in full force, for though no native would require the hint, a foreigner, who, unconscious of this antiquated custom, did not uncover his head, would be sharply uncapped by the sentry.

The cathedral of St. Basil, immediately outside this gate, is one of the most striking objects in the town, both in form and colour, a splendid "bizarrerie" outside and in; it is a labyrinth of chapels, and far from exhibiting any peculiar beauty. Ivan the Terrible, for whom it was built, is said to have put out the eyes of the Italian architect in order that he should not be able to erect a second. A strange caprice of cruelty—punishing the man for *succeeding* not *failing* in gratifying his whim of having a number of chapels under one roof, in which the different services could be performed without interruption to each other.

Near the gateway, at the opposite end of the

Kitai Gorod, is a famous oratory of the Virgin, the picture of which "works miracles." She is supposed to protect travellers; and here I one day observed a specimen of the superstitious habits of the upper classes. A large travelling carriage was standing at the chapel door, evidently fresh off a journey: no one was near it but the postillions and one servant. I asked my companion, an old resident, what could be the reason of the party stopping there? His answer was, that they were at their devotions, returning thanks for their safe arrival in the city, before driving to their own house. A few days after this, I observed another party who were going through a similar ceremony previously to leaving. To this establishment, besides plenty of Papas, is attached a close carriage, gaily painted, with four horses and servants in livery, to take the picture of the Virgin to the bed-sides of the dying. I once met the equipage returning from one of these visits; the painting was supported on the knees of the priests, and the people evinced great awe and respect for it as it passed: few people go by this chapel without taking off their hats.

The Peterskoi palace, inhabited by Napoleon during the great fire, is an odd and ugly building, and badly situated, close to the Petersburgh-road. The gardens, the Hyde-park of Moscow, are frequented by all the fashionables in the town; they are full of trees. One part is the place of recreation of the lower orders, who may be seen assembled round their somovars, quietly enjoying themselves and their "tchai."* This they drink, holding a lump of sugar in their fingers, which they suck from time to time instead of dissolving it in the cup. There is no "gaieté de cœur" or hilarity about a Russian, and unless they are tipsy, or otherwise much excited, they are a very tranquil, not to say a stupid people. In these gardens is the summer theatre, built of wood, and not inelegant, but at a very inconvenient distance from the city. An excellent French troop were performing here during our stay; and the orchestra, dresses, and scenery were as good as those of Paris, Vienna, or London, but the interior was nearly empty, and the few persons who were there neither applauded nor condemned the performance; in Russia this is

* Tea.

not permitted. The box-keepers and all the servants of the establishment were in the Imperial liveries. The whole theatrical department is in the hands of the government; the prices of admission are very high, but the expenses being great, and the theatre seldom full, there are no profits.

CHAPTER VIII.

The Foundling Hospital—A regiment of picaninnies—The boys at dinner—The governor's surprise—The rural wet nurses—A new arrival—The ledgers—A permanent godmother—Advantage taken of the institution—Ladies masked—Effects of the system—The Donskoi monastery—Metropolitan of Archangel—Burial place of the nobility—Church music—The Sparrow hills—Villa of the Empress—Khoonsovar—The Rev. Mr. Camidge—Leave Moscow—The Petersburgh road—Post-houses—Distance and time.

ONE morning was fully occupied in a visit to the Foundling Hospital, to see which it was necessary to procure an order and give twenty-four hours' notice. The establishment is on an enormous scale, probably the largest in the world. The expenses are defrayed by a tax of ten per cent. on all places of public amusement, and the interest upon sums borrowed from the Lombard bank attached to the hospital, established on the same principle as that of St. Petersburgh. One of the Demidoff family contributed largely to its support, and made great additions to the building.

Several thousand children are admitted annually. A great many of them are sent into the country; and some, who though grown up have not been established in the world, continue to receive relief. The upper part of the building is appropriated to the infants and wet nurses; there were nearly six hundred of each. The latter, drawn up in a line at the foot of their beds, had each a young Muscovite in her arms. They were all in uniform; not, it is true, in shakos and trowsers, but dark cotton gowns and white aprons, and the peculiar cap worn by nurses in Russia, which I have endeavoured to describe elsewhere. At the head of each bed was a little cot for the child. Every thing was perfectly clean, and the rooms well ventilated; all bowed as we went down the line, and singular to relate, only one child cried during our stay! The next suite of rooms was occupied by children from four to seven years of age; the elder ones were in the school-rooms. The girls were all in the country for change of air: they are entirely separated from the boys. After having visited a wilderness of rooms, the chapel, kitchen, and school-rooms, we proceeded to a long low dining hall, and saw five

hundred boys at their dinner. Before sitting down, they sung a grace in very good style, and the same afterwards: so many young voices had a very fine effect. The diet was plain, but wholesome, as the healthy appearance of the children attested. I asked the governor if he had not some trouble in keeping so many young urchins in order—whether they ever fought? He looked perfectly shocked at the question; the idea of such a breach of military discipline had apparently never presented itself to his mind, and he very gravely assured me, "Never! and that if unfortunately any thing of the kind should take place, it would be visited by an extreme punishment."

After the children had dined and dispersed, we were ushered into a room where more than three hundred peasants, each with a child in her arms, which she had come in from the country to fetch, were waiting for the order to return to their villages. These women have five roubles a week for suckling and taking care of a child; and it is very common for them to take one with one of their own still unweaned. Official persons, appointed by the establishment, go from time to time to look

after the children. At the period of our visit, they told us there were about 5000 in the villages in the environs.

Having seen the establishment in all its details, we were shown into the office where the infants are first received; it happened that one, the colour of mahogany, and only twenty-four hours old, was brought in while we were looking at the books. These were kept in excellent order, and the number of clerks employed proved that there was a good deal of business to be done. When the woman came in with the youngster, the only question asked was, "Is he baptized?" He was not, and the chaplain having been called, the child was taken into the adjoining room, where there was a small oratory and font. One of the old nurses, richer perhaps in god-children than any one else in the world, stood for him. He was then taken back to the officer, and his name and number, 3560, with the date of his admission into the establishment, were entered in the books. A corresponding ticket was tied round his neck, and a duplicate given to the woman who had brought him, who left perfectly unconcerned. By the pre-

sentation of this ticket the child might be claimed at any future time. He was then carried into another room, well washed, dressed in his little uniform, and a nurse having been fetched from the upper story, his cries, which had been unceasing ever since his arrival, quickly subsided.

The boys, with very few exceptions, are brought up to the army, and unless two or three hundred roubles are left with them as a deposit, they must pass their days in the ranks; if they evince any extraordinary talent, they may avert that fate without the money; but this sum will ensure them advancement. Some of the most clever girls are brought up as governesses, and occasionally obtain high salaries in that capacity. A few are educated for the stage; the greater part are brought up as servants of different grades; but all, without distinction of age or sex, can return to the Hospital, should they, from misfortune, fall into distress in after life. Parents can send their children here for education, by paying a certain sum to the establishment, and there are a few legitimate children, orphans, or of persons in very distressed circumstances, who benefit by

it; but the mass for whom this Hospital was erected, and which are now supported by it, are foundlings. It is admirably conducted, but lamentably abused; and the professed and systematic mode of receiving the children *without any inquiry*, encourages, to a frightful extent, the laxity of morals of the noble as well as of the serf. Those who choose to pay for the convenience, can have rooms and attendance during their confinement; they may come in masked, if they like, and remain so, certain that no attempt at investigation will take place about them, and when they return to society, no one is aware of the escapade they have made. Cases of this kind occasionally take place, and the provision made for them gives a fatal facility to the indulgence of unlimited profligacy. The system pursued in this Hospital, and the continued and rapid increase of its inmates, unfortunately leave not a doubt in favour of the argument for the public support of such an establishment. Under the guise of a charitable institution, it is perverted to the worst of purposes. The fate of illegitimate children, and the responsibilities of their parents, have been, and in all

probability will remain, one of the difficult subjects for legislation in most countries. But though some laws regarding it are necessary, there can be no question that natural affection, even common humanity, should inculcate upon those who can possibly raise the means, the duty of bringing them up at their own expense. It is monstrous to set up to admiration, as one of the public charities of which a country should be proud, an establishment like this, offering, as its boasted recommendation, every facility for severing the tie between parent, nay, *mother* and child, the effect of which is, to keep up a perpetual canker in the morals of the people. From the manner, and the scale on which it is conducted, it can be looked upon as nothing better than a premium for vice, and, as such, is taken wholesale advantage of by those who live within reach of it.

The evenings at Moscow are delightful after the heat of the day, and visits to the Seminoff and Donskoi monasteries are frequently made at that time by the inhabitants. These establishments in this country, were originally intended not only as places of religious retirement, but as a safe

retreat in the more turbulent times of the early Tzars; that of the Troitzka, has sheltered members of the Imperial family, and the walls of the Donskoi, with its numerous turrets, would have baffled its assailants before the days when the "villanous salt-petre" was "digged out of the bowels of the harmless earth." In the room over the gateway, the Metropolitan of Archangel, an acquaintance of the gentleman who accompanied us, had been confined many years, and from what we heard, was likely to remain many more, being suspected of having a few liberal ideas; the crime *assigned* against him was an inclination to tipple. The church, which is surrounded by the houses of the brotherhood, is of red brick, plain, lofty, and spacious; the principal object of interest is the burial ground of the *nobility*, the privilege of interment in which can only be purchased at an immense price. The tombs were crowded together, and though many of them were of rare marbles, and richly ornamented, there was little taste displayed. The only inscription not in Russ was that on the tomb of the late Count Woronzoff, many years ambassador in this country. The

singing at these monasteries is very impressive, on first hearing it; but the extreme monotony soon wearies. The bass voices were superb, and a kind of arpeggio, which they all kept up in unison while the priest was officiating, was remarkably fine, not easily compared with any other church music. It had somewhat the effect of as many double basses, all executing the same short arpeggio passage, and repeating it without any variation in the chord, time, or tone. Though very fine men, like most of their tribe they looked like drones.

On leaving the Donskoi, our kind friend, Mr. C——, accompanied us to the Sparrow hills, but having described the view from the Kremlin, I shall merely say that this nearly equalled it, and showed the city with more picturesque effect, though not in such detail. Winding along the heights above the river, we came into the town again by the gate at which the French entered. The Empress's villa, outside the city, situated on the banks of the Moskwa, is a delightful summer residence; the hot-houses were in good order, and contained some specimens of tropical plants.

The ivy, hawthorn, guelder-rose, holly, and lilac, we found were all greenhouse plants, here. The German gardener was very civil and intelligent. The only objects in the palace which especially attracted our attention, for everything was very plain, though comfortable, were the looking-glasses in the drawing-rooms, of very moderate size, in *two* pieces.

One of the most pleasant evenings during our stay at Moscow was passed at Khoonsovar with the Rev. Mr. Camidge, the English clergyman. The banks of the Moskwa at this place are very steep, and richly wooded to the water's edge, and the scenery, though limited in extent, might have been in North Devon or Derbyshire. The drive however across the steppe was most uninteresting, and we little expected to find the house of our amiable friend so beautifully situated.

Moscow has no English consul. When any thing unusual occurs which makes interference on behalf of the English residents necessary, Mr. Camidge exerts himself to the utmost in representing and supporting their interests. In this he is met half way by the governor, Prince G.,

who is always easy of access. The absence of a consul at Moscow is a blank in our diplomatic corps which decidedly ought to be filled up. It is true there are only three or four English merchants, but the congregation at the English church numbers nearly two hundred British subjects, principally artizans and engineers in the factories; there are also a great many tutors, governesses, and language masters. There is very little society here during the summer: the nobility retire to their villas in the neighbourhood and some to their estates.

A dinner party to which I was invited by the governor, Prince Galitzin, was made very agreeable by his "bonhomie" and polite attention. The sights of Moscow "épuisés," we found ourselves galloping along the chaussée to St. Petersburgh; as we winged our flight, the trackways, delays, and rascally chinovniks of the south were nearly forgotten; and happy was it for us that we flew, for between the two capitals the aspect of the country may be described as "flat, stale, and unprofitable." The view terminates a very short distance on each side of the road in a forest of stunted firs, the in-

86051

terval being a morass; behind and before is one long vista of chaussée, a delightful contrast to the ploughed track of the steppe. The only pleasing objects which break the monotony of this journey are the neat little cottages of the superintendents in charge of the invalid soldiers employed in repairing the road. These casernes are about four versts apart; the garden at the back of each was generally planted with potatoes—rather a rare sight in Russia. The repairs are conducted differently from what they would be in England, for very little of the road is picked up with the axe when new materials are laid on.

With the exception of the forty miles between Serpuchoff and Podolsk, this road is the only one in Russia Proper; though excellent, it is not better than many in Germany, and certainly not so good as the Holyhead. There was some difficulty in constructing it, as in several parts it was carried through morasses, and the material, (granite boulders,) was occasionally brought from a great distance. Leaving the Peterskoi Palace to the right, we arrived in a heavy storm of rain at

Himki, 12¾ versts.

Tschernia Griaz, 14; meaning literally, black mud. Post-house good.

Dourikino, 12¼.

Podsolnetchnia Gara, 17½. Post-house good.

Klin, 21. Small town. Post-house good.

Zavidova, 23.

Gorodnia, 23¼. Post-house good.

Emmaus, 13 .

TVER, 15¼. Government town. The Post-house here is not so good as in the villages.

Mednoi, 27. Post-house good.

Mironeji, 16¼.

TORJOCK, 15½. Celebrated for articles made in morocco, embroidered in gold. They are now no curiosities, and the slippers of Torjock may be seen in many of the fashionable shoe-shops in London. The Post-house is famous for cutlets.

Bondova, 22¼.

Vidropusk, 12¾.

Kolokolenko, 13½.

Vishni Volotchok, 17. Town.

Bachmari, 13½.

Kotilovo, 16.

Makarovo, 16½.

Yedrovo, 16½.

Zimagoria, 20. The fish from the lake near the village were delicious and remarkably well dressed; to a "gourmet" worth the journey from England.

Yajelbitsi, 20.

Rakino, 15¾. The country from Zimagoria to this place is undulating. These undulations are called the *mountains* of Valdai.

Krestsi, 19. Small town.

Moshnia, 12¾.

Zaetsova, 15.

Bronitsi, 25¼.

NOVOGOROD, 25¼. Government Town. The old Kremlin and the brass gates of the church are curious.

Podberosi, 21½.

Spaskoi Polish, 24. Post-house and "traiteur" unusually good.

The children at several of the villages on this day's journey offered us quantities of wood-strawberries for sale. On this road, the post-houses are large and well built, and the furniture smart and French polished. Looking-glasses, and portraits of

the Emperor and Empress figure in gold frames, but not a bed, sheet, or towel is ever to be seen; not even one of the common quilts of the country. They are, however, palaces compared with those in the steppe.

Tschandova, 23.

Pomerania, 26.

Riabova, 14½.

Tosna, 18.

Ijora, 23¾.

Chetiri Rouki, 20½, or the four roads.

ST. PETERSBURGH, 10½.

We accomplished this journey of 674 versts, or 448 English miles, including stoppages, in sixty-three hours, beating the Diligence, which started with us, by ten hours. The posting on this road is eight and a half copecks per verst per horse. The charges were,

Padaroshna	40	Paper roubles.
Three horses and Yemstchiks .	200	,,
Tolls for the chaussée . . .	15	,,
	255	=£17 0*s*. 9*d*.

CHAPTER IX.

Approach to St. Petersburgh—The imperial mile-stones—Coulon's hotel—Mrs. Wilson's—Russian traktirs—View from the Isaac church—The Nevski prospect—English merchants—Winter palace The vermin in it—Antiquities from Kertch—Collection of odds and ends—The Corps des Mines—Church in the citadel—Church of the Smolna monastery—Alexander Nefski—Sir A. W.—Amputation of Moreau's legs—His death.

THERE is probably no capital in the world the approach to which is so thoroughly uninteresting as that of St. Petersburgh from the interior. The road not far from Ijora, leaves the wretched pine forests, and crosses a swamp which continues up to the very gates of the city. On either side is a deep ditch, and the system of draining appeared very extensive and complete. At Chetiri Rouki the granite mile-stones gave us something to talk about. They were truly imperial, being at least eight feet in height, elegantly designed and highly finished. An avenue of trees of very stunted

growth started up with them; they were surrounded by bright green railings, which looked as if they were intended to supply a part of that verdure which nature had denied. The triumphal arch at the barrier, like that of Moscow, is coloured to represent bronze, and from its size has an imposing appearance; the ornaments are handsome but chiefly warlike, a few fasces being mingled with the military emblems.

Having received a ticket in exchange for our passports, we were jolted into Coulon's hotel in the Michailofsky Square over the very worst pavement, that of Koursk always excepted, that we had met with. Bad is the best of Petersburgh caravanserais, and worse than those of Asia, for there the traveller expects no accommodation but the water from the fountain in the court, and the shelter of its four walls. In this capital, he is led to expect every convenience and comfort, and finds none. The exterior of this hotel, considered the best, is magnificent, but like most of the post-houses in the interior, swarms with vermin. The "cuisine" was bad, and the attendance worse. With all this, the charges were equal to

those at the Clarendon. The wretched character of Petersburgh hotels is, however, rescued from utter ruin by our countrywoman Mrs. Wilson, who has a boarding-house in the Galernoi Oulitza; unfortunately it was full when we arrived. The best "lacquey de place" is sure to be heard of at her house; like the hotels, bad is the best, and he will in all probability be a regular rascal, though indispensable. There are numerous restaurateurs (traktirs) in the town, but the fare and cooking are, generally speaking, very indifferent. The wine was bad; the beer pretty good, but very much up and sweet. The stuff manufactured here under the name of porter is little better than the rincings of blacking-bottles. There is only one brewery. English porter is from thirty shillings to two guineas a dozen.

St. Petersburgh, from the regularity and unusually large scale of its streets and squares, the splendid barracks, and quays, churches, palaces, and public offices, must be allowed to be a city of extreme magnificence, though Moscow far exceeds it in picturesque beauty. The low and swampy level that it stands on certainly gives

ample room to lay out a city of any extent, but there is nothing to give it an interest. From the top of the Isaac church the traveller will see, at one "coup-d'œil," not only the remote corners of the suburbs, but the country for many miles, till the horizon is closed by the rocky shores of Finland on the one side, and loses itself in marsh and low forests on the other. The course of the Neva, with Peterhoff, Sarsko-Selo, and a few other villages, breaking the middle distance; and Cronstadt, with its fleet and fortifications, that of the gulf. The Admiralty is one of the most striking of the public buildings; but the façades, both towards the river, and in the square, are very ugly, and the little windows in the latter great disfigurements; the spire is gilt, and out of character with the design, which is intended to be Grecian.

Though magnificent, St. Petersburgh is far from pleasing, there is an everlasting sameness about it; and the houses are so whitewashed, that it all looks unpleasantly new. No one is allowed to wash or colour the front of his house as he pleases; the Government saves him the trouble of deciding

upon the particular shade, or any anxiety as to the period at which it shall be done. The Nevski Prospect, the Regent-street of the place, is ornamented with a row of trees on each side; but here, again, Nature appears to take a pleasure in defeating the Ukase which placed them there to embellish the street, for they are not much taller than a front rank man in the Preobrajensky regiment of the guards, and afford no shade to the promenaders. The shops in this street are numerous, and well stocked with every article of fashion and luxury, at extremely high prices: most of the tradesmen are foreigners. The trottoirs in the Nevski are handsome, and the carriage pavement is divided into three portions, stone in the centre, and one of wood on each side; the latter is by no means good or smooth, unless when quite new: the fir timber employed in its construction is never seasoned, and the hard frosts injure it very much; it is as bad as the stones for jolting, though not for noise. There is much to see in this town, and in the environs, but I do not intend to enter into a detailed description of it; those who require information on the subject, will do well to

consult Mr. Murray's hand-book. At the time of year at which we were there, (July), there is never any society; the Court are at Peterhoff or Sarsko. The troops, who form a large part of the population, and who contribute, in a great degree, to embellish the city, were in camp, and the scanty number of inhabitants, scattered over such a vast extent of streets, gave it a most deserted appearance. But the capital can never be dull to an Englishman, if he has a letter of introduction to any of the merchants of the factory;—their hospitality is unbounded. They are of the first class in character, intelligence, and stability; and though resident there for generations past, are honourably and jealously national in their habits and feelings, and bring up their families in the same spirit. They are a fine contrast to the English, so often found in other parts of the Continent, who think, and, unluckily act upon the opinion, that there is no harm in doing abroad what they would be thoroughly ashamed of at home; thereby very discreditably lowering our national character.

We were much disappointed in not being able

to see the Winter Palace, but the Emperor's orders had been too strict to allow of evasion in any way; it was now under repair for the second time since the fire. It was rebuilt in great haste after that occurrence, in compliance with the Imperial orders, and many of the workmen's lives were sacrificed, in consequence of the new work being dried by stoves while they continued the finishing. They worked night and day, and many of them slept on the floor in the unfinished rooms, so that the walls and parquets became infested with vermin, which, we were told, was the principal cause why so much required to be done over again. The collection of Rembrandts at the Hermitage, is an extremely fine one, and many mornings might be spent amongst them. The Museum of gold ornaments and trinkets, brought from Kertch, is in the same suite of rooms, and worthy of the greatest attention. Many of these antiques are more elegant in design and elaborate in execution than those I saw in the Crimea. Two of the most remarkable are a gold shield and mask, the latter the size of life, extended over a part of the throat, and was supposed to have been laid upon

the face of the person in whose tumulus it was found. There were, also, at the Imperial Academy, several Greek vases that had been brought from Kertch, very peculiar, both in form and execution; the figures on them were in relief, and ornamented with gilding. Here is also a self-acting instrument, externally like an organ, but giving, with great power and sweetness, the effect of a large band. One of the rooms adjoining the gallery contains a collection of jewelry, and odds and ends of great value, a vast proportion of which had been presented by different crowned heads to the emperors and empresses of Russia. One object that particularly attracted my attention amongst the glittering crowd in these glass cases, was the simple and unostentatious dressing-case used by the late Emperor.

Almost all the public establishments of schools, civil and military, and the other establishments, are to be seen by application for tickets to the proper authorities. The collection of the models and minerals at the Corps-des-Mines, are remarkable and highly interesting; to be seen properly, and to advantage, this establishment ought to be

visited several times, and with some person in authority. Without this passport, the most curious specimens will not be shown to the traveller. The cellars are fitted up as mines, and visitors descend with wax lights; the exhibition forms an excellent excuse for perquisites, but it is quite absurd to compare it with the reality, it is a mere toy, and the damp and chilliness of the place would fully justify any one in adopting the advice given by Sheridan to his son when he proposed to descend into a coal-pit.

The churches exhibit the same richness of decoration, the same want of taste, the same evidences of superstition, as those at Moscow. That in the citadel, where Peter the Great and his successors are buried, has a good deal the appearance of an arsenal; there are 1,600 standards in it, Persian, Greek, and Turkish, and seven French eagles. There were also one hundred and fifty keys of fortified towns; those of Zamosk, and another Polish town, were laid on the tomb of Constantine. We had seen the former under the portrait of Alexander at the Kremlin.

The pillars of Finland granite in the Church of

Kazan are very fine; here also are many warlike trophies, seventeen French eagles, and twenty-eight pair of keys, including those of Dresden, Hamburg, and Lubeck, and Davoust's baton-de-maréchal. The Church of the Smolna Monastery is an exception to the surcharged style of every other that I saw; there is only one painting, and that over the altar; the glass balustrades round it have a beautiful effect. The interior of this elegant building is entirely white; the architecture is extremely simple, excepting in the capitals of the columns, which are far too rich to be in keeping with the rest. The chaste and simple style of this church is said to have been adopted by order of the Emperor in order to wean the people from their gross superstitions. The architecture of the lower empire was introduced with the Greek religion, and, with the exception of three or four churches in Petersburgh, they are all built in this barbarous style.

At the silver shrine of the saint in the church of Alexander Nefski, devotees were to be seen by scores, many of them of fashionable appearance, and accompanied by their children, who were

lifted up by the nurses to kiss the figure. We also paid a visit to the imperial factories of Alexandrefsky, the tapestry manufactory, and others, including the palaces in the environs, the camp, &c.

While smoking a cigar one evening on a friend's balcony, which faced the Neva, occasionally looking out upon the river, and the magnificent, but silent and deserted quays, a carriage with four horses, "à la Russe," came thundering over the bridge of the canal, and drove up to the door. "Who is this?" said I, "he comes rather late to call." "A person who will amuse you amazingly," said Mr. C.; "it is Sir A. W., the chief of the Army Medical staff, and a most kind-hearted man." As he spoke, the old Scotchman was announced; his manner was rough but cordial, and the introduction over, we resumed our seats and cigars, without losing much time in compliments. The conversation soon became animated and highly interesting, and recollecting that the doctor had attended Moreau when he received his wounds at Dresden, I asked him whether it was true, that the General, when informed that the second leg must be taken off, had merely turned

round to his aide-de-camp and said, "Eh bien, une autre cigarre?" "Certainly not," said Sir A.; "I will tell you what really happened: when the shot took effect, Moreau was standing near the Emperor of Russia, who immediately went to his assistance, and he was taken into a house a little in rear of the position. This building was of two stories, but the lower one, from the undulations of the ground in front, was covered from the fire of the French artillery, while the upper, being exposed, was frequently struck by round shot while I operated.

"On looking at the injuries, I saw immediately that amputation of both legs was absolutely necessary; but I spoke only of one, and the usual arrangements having been made, the limb was removed, the General undergoing the operation with great firmness. I then, again, examined the other leg, and after a short delay, informed him that in was my painful duty to state that he must lose that also. He appeared, as well he might, poor fellow, wholly unprepared for this, and observed with some agitation, 'Ah, mon cher docteur! pourquoi ne m'aviez vous pas dit cela

plutôt? Mon Dieu! je serai un monstre, oui, un monstre.' He then continued, with some warmth, 'Ah! ce Buonaparte il est toujours heureux, il a toujours du bonheur!' Seeing that he was getting excited, I reasoned with him, and said, 'Mon général, vous êtes un galant homme, soyez raisonable.' He turned round immediately, signified his wish that I should proceed, and bore the second amputation with a patience, resignation, and fortitude, truly wonderful; not a sigh escaped him; but there was no *smoking*. When the army retired, a hundred Cossacks were ordered to attend him; these fellows carried him on a litter supported by their pikes, and so anxious was he not to fall into the hands of Napoleon, that although it was a wretched night, he refused to be left with his surgeon at any of the villages through which we passed.

"I saw him on the following morning, and in spite of all this exertion, he was doing very well. But in the course of that evening, or the next day, Prince M—— and the Duke of * * * passed through the camp on their way to Vienna, and, most unfortunately, paid him a visit. They both

drew him into a conversation, which eventually turned on the state of Europe, and the position of the armies, and the excitement it produced brought on fever, which ended in his death. Ah! my dear Sir," concluded Sir A——, "Moreau was a great man; and the Emperor was much affected at his death." He then gave us a graphic, though horrible, description of the hospital scenes after the battle of Borodino.

This was one of the most agreeable evenings I passed at St. Petersburgh, and I was indeed sorry when the gallant old doctor took his departure.

The succeeding chapters are dedicated to a few details connected with the origin and present state of the Russian army.

CHAPTER X.

Early history of the Russian army—The Strelitzes—Fortifications in ice—Dragoons first introduced—Peter the Great's improvements—Foreign officers—Strength of the army according to Balbi, Brué and Zimmerman—Marshal Marmont's account—His "encadrement"—Actual strength—Cossacks.

PREVIOUSLY to the time of Ivan IV., who began to reign in 1533, there were no regular troops in Russia; the ancient feudal system of the rest of Europe still prevailed in that country. Up to his day, the Vaivodes, or principal nobility, served as generals, and the less wealthy of that class performed the duties of the subordinate officers. They were followed to the field by their dependents, armed with every variety of weapon, wretchedly clothed, and wholly undisciplined. Taken without any regard to their previous occupation, they presented a strange medley; and as soon as the exigency for which they had been assembled was over, they dispersed, and returned to their

homes. In times of great emergency, the church contributed both horses and men. Despairing of ever effectually reducing the power of the Tartars with soldiers like these, Ivan turned his attention to their improvement; and in 1545, established the militia of the Strelitzes, the first body of regular troops raised in Russia. These men always served on foot, and were originally, as their name imports, mere archers; "Strelitzy" being the plural of "Strelai," an arrow. Ivan subsequently gave them firelocks, and made them subject to military discipline. These troops, from 20,000 to 24,000 in number, formed the body guard of the Tzars; they enjoyed a multiplicity of privileges and immunities, and from the latitude thus allowed them, acquired an influence similar to that of the Prætorian bands, under the Roman Emperors, or to the Janizaries of later days. The suburb at Moscow, in which they were usually quartered, is still called the "Strelitzkaia slaboda,"—the quarter of the Strelitzes. Ivan received foreign officers into his army, for he had the good sense to see that his own countrymen were incapable of giving instruction in the art of discipline, or of

conducting any manœuvres in the field; he also materially improved the fortifications, which had hitherto been of the rudest kind: amongst the Tartars, they had even been constructed of ice, during the winter. Dragoons were first introduced into the Russian army by the Tzar Michael Romanoff, in 1613. Various improvements continued to be made up to the time of Peter the Great, who, jealous of the power of the Strelitzes, and knowing that they were conspiring against his life, massacred them after a revolt, in 1698, erased the name of the corps from the list of military establishments, and, with the assistance of Le Fort, Chein, Gordon, a Scotch adventurer, and other foreigners, put his troops on the same footing with those of the other nations of Europe. The Preobrajensky regiment, still existing, was formed by Peter, and was the nucleus round which the present corps of Guards was established.

It was some time before these new levies could compete with the soldiers of other European armies, and the defeat of Peter, at Narva, where, with 100,000 men, he was beaten by the mad Swede, with 8000 and a snow storm, showed how little

had yet been effected. The unlimited resources, and unwearied perseverance of Peter, however, at length prevailed, and placed a powerful and well-disciplined army at his command. His plans have been studiously followed and acted up to by his successors, and the military department of the government has always been the chief object of their care; an anxiety which has by no means diminished under the present Emperor. Lord Londonderry has observed that it is almost impossible to obtain a correct statement of the strength of the Russian army; and the striking differences that exist in the respective accounts of those authors who have touched upon the subject, completely prove the justice of that nobleman's remark. Balbi, one of the most indefatigable of statistical inquirers, fixes it at 710,000, but does not state whether the Cossacks are included in this calculation.

The army—"men, *wives, and children*"—are happily described by Monsieur Ziabloffsky, the Russian authority, as being 1,200,000 strong.

The "Atlas Universel" of Brué, published in Paris in 1838, makes it consist of 870,000 men.

According to Zimmerman, the army, including the artillery, but without Cossacks, or infantry reserve, amounts to 594,000 men. His statement is the most confused of any, though given with a great deal of pretension; and his calculations, when compared with those of Marmont, are strikingly dissimilar: there is a difference, for instance, of 37,440 men in the army "en activité," of 5,120 men in the corps of guards and grenadiers, 6000 in the special corps, and an arithmetical error in the addition of his own figures, amounting to 6000.

	Men
The active army, according to this writer, is composed of . . .	360,000
The corps of Guards and Grenadiers .	114,000
The cavalry of the reserve . .	30,000
The two independent corps d'armées of the Caucasus and Siberia . .	90,000
	594,000
If to these numbers are added the infantry of reserve	72,000
Sixty battalions of sappers, doing duty in the fortresses	60,000
Cossacks	116,800

	Men
The army would, by Zimmerman's calculations, amount to . . .	842,800

The numerical strength of the military forces of Russia amounts, according to Marshal Marmont, to 695,400 men. He divides the whole regular army into corps d'armées, divisions, brigades, regiments, battalions or squadrons, making a regiment of infantry to consist of seven battalions, four of which, of 1,000 men each, belong to the active army; two, of 500 each, in time of peace, to the reserve, and one recruiting.

These four battalions form a regiment of infantry in the active army, which is, therefore of	4,000
A regiment of infantry of the reserve is made up from six battalions of five hundred men each	3,000
A regiment of infantry of the guards or grenadiers, is composed of three battalions of 1,000 men each	3,000
A regiment of cavalry of the active army, is composed of eight squadrons of 180 men each	1,440

	Men
A regiment of cavalry of the army of reserve, is composed of eight squadrons of 180 men each	1,440
A regiment of cavalry of the imperial guard, is composed of seven squadrons of 180 men each	1,260
A regiment of cavalry of the corps of grenadiers, is composed of eight squadrons of 180 men each	1,440

The corps for special service are also calculated at 1,000 men to the battalion. Estimating, therefore, the whole army by these numbers, the Marshal arrives at the following results:—

Infantry of the army "en activité" .	288,000
„ of reserve	72,000
„ imperial guard	36,000
One battalion of sappers, 1 of marines, 1 of chasseurs, 1 of invalids . .	4,000
Infantry of the corps of grenadiers .	36,000
„ of the reserve do. . . .	12,000
„ of the special corps of the Caucasus, Orenberg, Siberia, and Finland .	96,000

	Men
Sixty battalions of sappers doing duty in the fortresses	60,000
	604,000

Cavalry of the active army . . .	34,560
„ of the army of reserve . .	34,560
„ of the imperial guard . . .	15,120
„ of the corps of grenadiers . .	5,760
One regiment of cavalry attached to the special corps of the Caucasus . .	1,440
	91,440

	Batteries of horse artillery	Batteries of foot artillery
Active army . . .	12 . .	90
Army of reserve . . .	12. . .	—
Imperial guard . .	4 . .	12
Corps of grenadiers . .	2. . .	15
Special corps . . .	— . .	32
One division of horse artillery of reserve . . .	9. . .	—
Ditto of the Don, Black Sea, Orenberg, and Siberia .	10 . .	—
	49	149

	Men
Amount of the regular army .	695,400
Cossacks	116,800
	812,200

Total, men, 812,200; horse artillery, 49 batteries; foot do. 149 do.

But though the Marshal's "encadrement" is the most authentic and correct that has been published, his numbers are far from being so. A battalion of the army "en activité," said to be of 1,000 men, seldom averages more than from 700 to 750, the remaining 250 consist of recruits not joined, sometimes not even levied, and dead men; the returns of the latter are frequently delayed for months, the colonel in the mean while, by continuing them on the strength, receives their rations, clothing, &c. In the same manner, a squadron of cavalry of the same army, calculated at 180 men, is, in reality, considered strong if it can number 120 men and horses, the remainder are either recruits, at their depôt, several hundred miles off, or others not levied, dead, or the horses not being kept up, (a common practice,) dis-

mounted. This is an additional perquisite for the colonel, as he pockets the forage money. The battalions of the guards and grenadiers have seldom more than 800 men, and the squadrons 160. The battalions of reserve 350 instead of 500, and the squadron 100. The corps for special service are non-effective in the same proportion as those in activity—their casualties are very great from sickness, bad provisions, and quarters.

When the amount of the whole army, is calculated upon battalions and squadrons thus reduced in strength, it will be found considerably lower than has generally been represented, and much nearer the truth.

	Men
The army "en activité" is composed of six corps d'armées, the infantry of which amounts therefore to . .	216,000
Each corps having	36,000
In 3 divisions, each	12,000
„ 2 brigades „	6,000
„ 2 regiments „	3,000
„ 4 battalions „	750

	Men
The cavalry of these 6 corps amounts to	23,040
Each corps having—	
One division of . . .	3,840
In 2 brigades, each	1,920
„ 2 regiments „	960
„ 8 squadrons „	120
The infantry of the army of reserve consists of 144 battalions of 350 men each, (but two are thrown into one) .	50,400
In 3 divisions, each	16,800
„ 2 brigades „	8,400
„ 2 regiments „	4,200
„ 6 battalions „	700
The cavalry of this army amounts to .	19,200
In 3 corps, each . . .	6,400
„ 2 divisions „	3,200
„ 2 brigades „	1,600
„ 2 regiments „	800
„ 8 squadrons „	100

The Imperial Guard consists of six divisions, three of infantry, and three of cavalry:—

The infantry amounts to . . .	28,800

	Men
In 3 divisions, each	9,600
„ 2 brigades „	4,800
„ 2 regiments „	2,400
„ 3 battalions „	800
The cavalry amounts to . . .	13,440
In 3 divisions, each	4,480
„ 2 brigades „	2,240
„ 2 regiments „ . . .	1,120
„ 7 squadrons „	160
1 battalion of sappers, 1 marines, 1 chasseurs, and 1 of invalids . . .	3,200

The corps of grenadiers consists of four divisions, three of infantry, and one of light cavalry :—

The infantry amounts to . . .	28,800
In 3 divisions, each . .	9,600
„ 2 brigades „	4,800
„ 2 regiments „	2,400
„ 3 battalions „	800
The cavalry amounts to . . .	5,120
In 2 brigades, each	2,560
„ 2 regiments „	1,280

	Men
In 8 squadrons, each	160
Infantry reserve of the corps of grenadiers	9,600
In 2 brigades, each	4,800
„ 2 regiments „	2,400
„ 3 battalions „	800

The corps for special service are—

The corps of the Caucasus.

In 3 divisions of infantry . .	36,000
„ „ each . .	12,000
„ 2 brigades „ . .	6,000
„ 2 regiments „ . .	3,000
„ 4 battalions „ . .	750
One regiment of cavalry is attached to this force	960

The corps of Orenberg.

In 1 division of infantry . . .	12,000

The corps of Siberia.

In 1 division of infantry . . .	12,000

The corps of Finland.

In 1 division of infantry . . .	12,000

	Men
Sixty battalions of sappers, doing duty in the fortresses	42,000

SUMMARY.—*Army "en activité."*

Infantry	216,000
Cavalry	23,040
Army of reserve.	
Infantry	50,400
Cavalry	19,200
Imperial Guard.	
Infantry	28,800
Cavalry	13,440
One battalion of sappers, marines, chasseurs and invalids	3,200
Corps of Grenadiers.	
Infantry	28,800
Cavalry	5,120
Infantry reserve of this corps	9,600
Special Corps.	
Infantry	72,000
Cavalry	960
Sappers.	
Sixty battalions	42,000
Total	512,560

Marmont estimates the number of Cossacks as follows:—

		Men
56	Regiments of the Don	44,800
21	„ „ Black Sea	16,800
12	„ „ Caucasus	9,600
2	„ „ Danube	1,600
1	„ „ Azoff	800
3	„ „ Astrakan	2,400
3	„ „ Bashkirs	2,400
2	„ „ Navropol	1,600
12	„ „ Oural	9,600
20	„ „ Orenberg	16,000
12	„ „ Siberia	9,600
2	„ „ Little Russia	1,600
		116,800

By this calculation, the Russian army, including Cossacks, the numbers of which have not been reduced, amounts to 629,360

According to Marmont, including Cossacks 812,000

Giving a difference of . 182,640

The Cossacks are relieved every four years;

and the men after the age of thirty-five remain at home, and constitute the reserve. These troops are principally employed on the frontiers and sea-coast, where they form the sanitary and custom-house "cordons;" they do, also, a great deal of escort duty. The privileges of the Cossacks have been greatly diminished of late years, and their independence at the present time is almost a matter of history.

CHAPTER XI.

Strength of officers—Low rate of pay—System of peculation—The "Fat and the Lean"—Naval employés—Raising the wind—Junior officers—Country quarters—Duties in barracks—No pensions—A soldier's gratitude—Officers degraded to the ranks—Rations—A soldier's mess—Arms, accoutrements, and necessaries—The guards in camp—The ornamental section—A striking character.

THE numerical strength of officers is small in proportion to the men. Their numbers were much reduced by the Ukase of 1835, when the army was remodelled throughout, and a retrenchment effected of four millions of roubles. They are wretchedly paid, even those in the command of divisions; the pay of a general officer thus employed is scarcely equal to a major's in our service, and those who have a private fortune are not expected to draw their half pay when they retire. A surgeon only receives about £30 a-year. This state of things induces a regular system of pilfering, and to make money all kinds of underhand means are resorted to,

under the denomination of perquisites. The extent to which this system is carried naturally depends on the circumstances and dispositions of the officers, as some may be more or less rich or necessitous than others. With the exception of the arms and accoutrements, every thing is furnished by the colonel of the regiment, who draws an allowance from government of so much for each man. In this manner he has an opportunity of realizing considerable sums; as much as 40,000 roubles are sometimes made in one year. In the cavalry, if forage is cheap in the district in which the regiment is quartered, the colonel takes the allowance in money; if it is dear, in kind, but this is all known and permitted. On being appointed to a command, he may, however, be put to considerable expense, for th stores and accoutrements must be taken from his predecessor at a fixed price. When a cavalry regiment is ordered on service, a large sum is required to make it efficient, for it must then be completed with the proper number of horses, which, as I have before said, is rarely or never kept up. An instance of the bad effects of this system was shown at Sevastopol

when I was there. Two regiments of the garrison had acquired the sobriquets of the "fat" and the "lean;" the men of the former were in excellent case, the latter scarecrows; one regiment had as much as they could eat, the other as little as they could live upon; one had tails to their shirts, the others had none. The colonel of this "rag and famish" corps could not resist the strong temptation to pocket the value of some hundreds of pounds of meal, and 3000 shirt-tails; in other words, 1500 archines* of calico. Thus wringing out of what was intended as a provision for his men, a supply of luxuries for himself, or a sum to retire upon. This is an extreme case, no doubt, but the power exists, and is acted upon; and the service generally is tainted by the practice.

Peculation is not confined to the civil and military employés, it exists also in the navy; the sale of stores is quite common at Cronstadt. The blue thread, the Imperial mark in a bolt of canvass, is taken out as soon as a bargain is effected, and discovery seldom ensues. When the Russian fleet was at Malta, after the battle of Navarino,

* Twenty-eight inches.

an English dealer in marine stores was heard to exclaim, "Well, if they remain here six months longer, I shall make my fortune." The wretched pittance of pay induces many who have no other means of support to resort to all kinds of expedients to make both ends meet. "How do you live?" said a friend of mind to a dashing aide-de-camp of General ———, holding a situation of some importance at the capital, "your fourteen hundred roubles of pay don't go far; why you must spend fifteen thousand." "To be sure I do, and the items are soon told," replied the aide-de-camp. "My uniform and wardrobe cost three thousand roubles; my drosky and saddle-horses two thousand; you know house rent is dear at St. Petersburgh, two thousand more—seven thousand; Annette, the theatre, bouillote and billiards consume six, and the rest 'je mange.' Ah, my good fellow, the general's tradesmen are better paymasters than the Emperor. They must have my signature to their bills before they receive their money; if a man is *reasonable* I sign instanter: if not, he waits three months, six, or a year, and in the end I never fail to secure ten or fifteen per cent. Discount, my

friend, mere discount; but the rouble has become so depreciated since the days of Peter the Great, that there is no getting on, or even existing upon one's pay."

The officers of the junior branches of the army, unless possessed of private fortune, lead a wretched and listless kind of life. Though their commissions give them a place in society, they are from extreme poverty unable to take advantage of it, and hundreds who have no protection, and are not of good family, never rise. A great many of them are without education, and from long continuance in country quarters, that is in the wilds of Siberia, the steppes of the Ukraine, or the shores of the Caspian, have no opportunities of acquiring information and becoming as intelligent members of their profession as the officers of other countries. As the colonel supplies the rations, they never enter the barrack-room at the breakfast or dinner hour, and there are no small books or ledgers to sign; in fact, they scarcely ever see anything of their men, excepting on parade, who are therefore left to indulge themselves at all other times in the dirty and slovenly habits so common

to the country, and so wholly at variance with one of the first duties of their profession.

The pay of the soldier is seven roubles a-year, or three quarters of a farthing per diem; out of this, he is obliged to buy his own blacking, and candle to grease his mustachios. When employed on public works, such as the construction of roads or fortifications, he is supposed to receive forty copecks a-day, about three pence half-penny; but he gets very little of this, as the greatest portion goes into the "caisse d'épargnes," Every man is obliged to contribute to this stock-purse. No pensions are granted on discharge,

> "No one proves the hero's friend,
> No bounty waits him to his end."

But each soldier on leaving the service is paid a certain sum from it to enable him to return to his village; and the surplus, if there is any, remains his own. His share sometimes amounts to £10 or £15; but the benefit to be derived from the "caisse d'épargnes" is so remote and uncertain, that the prospect of receiving it in no degree stimulates the men to exertion; they consider the deduction as a daily sacrifice, and the work con-

sequently, as at Sevastopol, proceeds slowly and languidly. When quartered in the towns, many of them obtain permission to work on their own account, but in uniform—undress of course. I had one employed at my house, in carrying wood; and thinking some votka would warm him after his occupation in the cold cellar, I ordered him a glass, which he drank with many thanks. On leaving the yard my servant observed that he walked rather oddly, and suspecting that he had something concealed under his great coat, raised a hue and cry; chase being made, he dropped three logs of my wood in his flight. But this is not extraordinary, for the army is the Botany Bay of the Empire; proprietors of serfs send their worst characters to it, and its ranks are considered by every Russian, high or low, as the Ultima Thule of misery and hardship. When officers are degraded to them, the general of the division or other officer in command, sometimes invites them to his table, and endeavours by attentions of this kind to alleviate in some measure the wretchedness of their condition. I met one of these "destitués" at Kertch, at the table of Prince K.; he had taken some part in the conspiracy of 1825.

The food of the soldier is of the coarsest and cheapest kind; usually peas, salt cucumbers, water melons, buck wheat, rape oil, and black bread. Dr. Johnson observed, with more acrimony, than judgment, that oatmeal was food for horses in England, and men in Scotland. Had he searched Buffon through, it is difficult to say what quadruped he would have selected to eat the black bread of the Russian soldier. Foreigners are invariably told by the nobility, and proprietors of serfs, that the peasants and soldiers are particularly fond of this black material; and I heard it asserted that when the Russian army was in Paris, it was necessary to have it made on purpose for the troops. For my own part, I never observed a Russian labourer eating it in Odessa, where a great deal of coarse wheaten bread is made by the German colonists, if he had the means of procuring the latter. In my walks about the town and environs, I had plenty of opportunities of seeing the masons, and other workmen, at their meals, as they invariably take them out with them.

The soldiers' *messes* are served in an immense bowl, round which they sit or kneel, and dipping

in their wooden spoons, continue the operation till the porridge or borsch is eaten. The clothing, that is the uniform and accoutrements, are excellent; the cloth, though not quite so good as English, is close; the belts, of a white patent leather, are much more easily cleaned than the common buff, and the sling of the firelock is of red leather; were it not, therefore, for the bright barrel of his musket, the Russian soldier would have scarcely anything to occupy him in barracks. His knapsack, however, is all but empty; socks, even amongst officers, are not always worn, by the soldiers never; a few of them tie or swathe a dirty piece of calico round the leg and foot.

At one of the grand reviews, which took place when the Grand Duke Constantine was at Warsaw, a great number of foreign officers happened to be present, and his Imperial Highness, with the view of astonishing his visitors by the good condition of the packs, ordered several of them to be opened in his presence; they were slowly unstrapped, and when laid upon the ground for his inspection, were found to contain plenty of *straw!* In country quarters, and on the march, they are

dressed in a slouching grey great coat and forage cap, with a pair of dirty cotton drawers stuffed into their Wellington boots.

The corps of guards and grenadiers go under canvass every summer. When at St. Petersburgh I went over to the camp at Sarsko Selo to see them, and as rain had fallen for several days consecutively, the troops appeared to be in a most forlorn state. The interior of their tents was full of mud mixed up with straw; upon this the men were lying, in dirty cotton drawers and shirts, without either coats, trowsers, or shoes. I was not a little surprised, however, to find that many of the officers, though apparently living in tents, were inhabiting small wooden houses under them; they were about six feet square, and as easily packed up and re-erected as the tents; the floor was boarded, and we dined four in one of them very comfortably. The Emperor, when in camp, lives under canvass.

I saw a picked man from each company of a battalion of the Preobrajensky regiment. They were remarkably tall, but being very much padded out at the breast, and drawn in very tight at

the waist, they had, in their great coats, a very lanky appearance; many of the regiments of the line that I saw at Moscow, and in the South, would have worked them off their legs in a campaign of any duration. The hospitals were filling fast, and I was told that a great many casualties take place on their return to their splendid quarters at St. Petersburgh after the summer manœuvres. Here they are so worried by the numerous "tracasseries" connected with their dress and appointments, that they avoid leaving their barracks as much as possible. The Emperor, not long ago, observing that but few soldiers were to be seen in the streets, asked the military governor the reason. He was either afraid, or too good a courtier to give the right one, but to prevent a recurrence of the remark, issued an order that some of the men of each company should be told off every day as the "walking section," to ornament the most public parts of the capital.

Discipline is kept up by extreme measures, and the cane is used at pleasure; but a man who has received the ribbon of St. George, is, by the regulations of the service, exempt from this species

of punishment. The officers not unfrequently give way to violence of temper. I once saw a captain, inspecting his guard near the quarantine at Odessa, strike one of his men a blow on the face with his fist, and, seizing him by both his ears, shake him until he pulled him out of the ranks; the man's cap then fell off, and the officer, ordering a corporal to pick it up, jammed it down on his head with another blow. The whole system is carried on in the same tyrannical and overbearing manner. The Russian soldier meets with very little kindness or consideration to soften the misery of being imperatively driven into the service.

CHAPTER XII.

System of recruiting—Conscripts—Their dread of the service—Entering—Leaving—The recruiting board—"Lop" and "Zatillac"—Native modesty—Suwaroff's catechism.

In conducting the system of recruiting, the empire is divided into two parts, and the levies are raised alternate years in each; four, five, or six men are taken from every thousand male souls. Infants are included from the day they are registered, and, as the recruits are only eligible between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-five, the great deductions that must necessarily be made for the children and aged, leave the liabilities of the able-bodied men very much greater than would at first appear. It rarely happens that six are taken, but it was the case in the Polish and Turkish

wars, and in 1840, in consequence of the defeats sustained in Circassia in the summer of 1839 and the spring of the following year. The old nobility are far from admiring this military system and mania; it causes a heavy loss to them in capital, each conscript being worth at least a thousand roubles. The soldier, if he lives long enough, gains his freedom on discharge, and they are therefore entirely deprived of his services. The proprietors do their best to evade the registration of the children, and, in concert with their own priest, generally delay the form for at least a year. The recruits selected for the service are frequently men against whom their owners have some cause of complaint, just or unjust, and the government cannot offer any objection to them, excepting on account of disease, deformity, or being below the standard; the minimum of this is five feet three inches for the line, and five feet six inches for the guards. Substitutes are taken at eighteen years of age, but they are very difficult to procure; as much as one hundred pounds is sometimes given. Enlistment is held out "in terrorem" by a nobleman to his serfs, and such is

their horror of the service, that they look upon it as the greatest punishment that can possibly be inflicted upon them. The recruits are, generally speaking, marched off to their regiments in chains, and to disable themselves for service, they have been known to practise self-mutilation, by chopping off a finger. We met, on our way from Odessa to Moscow, a long line of these wretched victims of a *pure* despotism. As they were chained and guarded by Cossacks, we took them for convicts, but, on inquiring, they proved to be recruits. Lyall, who was some years resident in Russia, says that those he saw "were absorbed in grief, and sat like statues, or lay extended like corpses;" and adds of others that those who heard "their wild shrieks and lamentations, would imagine that they were engaged in a funeral procession;" nor would they be much mistaken, for the peasants who thus take leave of their wives and families, consider it a civil death, if not a military one.

The scenes to which the conscription gives rise are often of the most afflicting kind; and married men and the sons of widows are torn away from the families of which they were the chief prop

and support. Few furloughs are given; and as they can neither read nor write, their relations and friends seldom hear of them after they leave their home. Even if they support all the hardships and severity of their service, they return to their village, after twenty-five years, scarcely recognizable by their friends; bowed down by disease and wholly incapable of gaining a livelihood, they drag out their miserable existence as best they can. The *liberty* they then receive, so far from being a boon, is a cruel farce; for their emancipation from slavery is granted to them only to relieve the Crown, or their former proprietors, from the burden of their maintenance. "The dread which the Russian peasant has of the conscription is not surprising, when the severity of military service and discipline in this country is borne in mind; and when it is considered how completely every tie of family or affection is severed, every previous hope and prospect destroyed for the victims of this iron system." Such is the opinion of Mr. Venables, who had excellent opportunities of judging. He also witnessed the forms of enlistment, his account of which I have,

with some variation, adopted. It is almost unnecessary to say that on these occasions bribery is practised, from the President downwards. The Board generally consists of the Vice-Governor of the province, or, in his absence, the Marshal of the Government, a field-officer, and a few civil functionaries; one of the Emperor's aides-de-camp is also in attendance, who makes a general report, and selects the finest looking men for the Guards. The standard-measure, the only article of furniture in the room, besides the common deal table and chairs, occupied by the board, is "flanked on either side by a tall corporal." The ante-room is crowded with serfs, and a few gens d'armes to keep order; at a sign from the President, the door is thrown open, and one of the Patagonian corporals, having received his instructions, calls for the peasants of Alexis Michail Vassiliavitch Tschitschegoff, to be in readiness. A. B., the first on the list of Mr. Tschitschegoff's conscripts, is ordered in. A. B.! shouts the corporal, and in walks A. B., *stark naked!* he is shoved under the standard, (not unlike a gallows,) and the corporal announces his height. This is registered

by the President, and the man is handed over to the doctor, who pronounces him sound or otherwise: the field-officer then takes a look at him, and, if he also approves, he is entered in the book, and the President giving the word, "lop," (forehead,) the corporal ejects him from the room, shouting "lop;" this is repeated in the ante-room, and the man being taken to another apartment, his forehead is immediately shaved, and he finds himself a soldier. In the mean time, C. D. appears before the board, and if he is either too short, or otherwise unfit for his Imperial Majesty's service, the President says "Zatillac;" (neck;) C. D. is then moved off, and the corporal shouting "Zatillac!" the word is re-echoed in the ante-room, "Zatillac, atillac, tillac, illac, lac, ac," with great *alac*-rity, and the man having had the back of his neck shaved, returns to his bondage and his master. The crown peasants, though generally accompanied by their wives and children, and other females of their family, also present themselves *stark naked!* another instance, besides those I have mentioned, of the total absence of all public decency in this country. At the conclu-

sion of each day, the new levies are marched to the church, where they take the oaths of fidelity and allegiance before the Priest; their heads are cropped, and beards shaved, and they are sent off as soon as possible, to the battalion which forms the recruiting depôt of each regiment; here, they go through a regular course of drill, and when sufficiently perfect, are sent to the two battalions of reserve. The drill and manœuvres are conducted a good deal upon the French system, the men working in three ranks. The following translation of Field Marshal Count Alexander Vassiliavitch Suwaroff's catechism will not, perhaps, be deemed out of place here. Clarke calls it a "Discourse under the Trigger." These instructions were drawn up by the Marshal himself, for the use of the army under his command, after the Turkish war, and were transmitted by the Russian Government to every regiment in the service.

The Hero of Ismail is supposed to be in front of the line, addressing his troops:—

"Heels close!—Knees straight!—A soldier must stand like a dart!—I see the fourth—the fifth I

don't see! A soldier's step is an *archine*—in wheeling, an archine and a half. Keep your distances well!

"Soldiers! join elbows in front!* First rank three steps from the second—in marching, two!

"Give the drum room!

"Keep your ball three days,—it may happen,† for a whole campaign, when lead cannot be had.

"Fire seldom—but fire sure!

"Push hard with the bayonet! The *ball* will lose its way—the *bayonet* never! The *ball* is a fool—the *bayonet* a hero!

"Stab once! and off with the Turk from the bayonet! Even when he's dead, you may get a scratch from his sabre.

"If the sabre be near your neck, dodge back one step, and push on again.

"Stab the second!—stab the third!—A *hero* will stab half-a-dozen!!

"Be sure your ball's in your gun!!

"If three attack you, stab the first, fire on the second, and *bayonet* the third!—this seldom happens!!!

* Quære, keep your touch?

† It may be necessary to do so.

"In the attack, there's no time to load again.

"When you fire, take aim at their guts! and fire about twenty balls. Buy lead from your economy*—it costs little.

"We fire sure—we lose not one ball in thirty: in the light artillery, and heavy artillery, not one in ten. If you see the match upon a gun, run up to it instantly!—the ball will fly over your head! —The guns are yours—the people are yours! Down with 'em upon the spot! pursue 'em! stab 'em!—To the remainder give quarter—it's a sin to kill without reason; they are men, like you.† Die for the honour of the Virgin Mary—for your *Mother!*‡—for all the Royal Family! The Church prays for those that die; and those who survive have honour and reward. Offend not the peaceable inhabitant! he gives us meat and drink—the soldier is not a robber. Booty is a holy thing! If you take a camp, it is all yours! If you take a fortress, it is all yours! At Ismail, besides other things, the soldiers shared gold and

* Quære, plunder?

† See the account of the sieges of Ismail and Prague.

‡ The Empress Catherine.

silver by handfuls; and so in other places: but, *without order*, never go to booty!!

"A battle in the field has three modes of attack:

1st. *On the Wing*,

which is weakest. If a wing be covered by wood, it is nothing; a soldier will get through.—Through a morass it is more difficult.—Through a river you cannot race. All kind of entrenchment you may jump over.

2nd. *The attack in the centre*

Is not profitable—except for cavalry, to cut them in pieces—or else they'll crush you.

3rd. *The attack behind*

Is very good. Only for a small corps to get round. Heavy battle in the field, against regular troops. In squares, against Turks, and not in columns. It may happen against Turks, that a square of five hundred men will be compelled to force its way through a troop of six or seven thousand, with the help of small squares on the flank. In such a case, it will extend in a column. But, till now, we had no need of it. There are the *God-*

forgetting, windy, light-headed Frenchmen—if it should ever happen to us to march against them, we must beat them in columns.

The battle, upon Entrenchments, in the Field.

"The ditch is not deep—the rampart is not high.—Down in the ditch! Jump over the wall! Work with your bayonet! Stab! Drive! Take them prisoners! Be sure to cut off the cavalry, if any are at hand!—At Prague, the infantry cut off the cavalry: and there were threefold and more entrenchments, and a whole fortress; therefore we attacked in columns.

The Storm.

"Break down the fence! Throw wattles over the holes! Run as fast as you can! Jump over the palisades! Cast your faggots! (into the ditch.) Leap into the ditch! Lay in your ladders! Scour the columns! Fire at their heads! Fly over the walls!!! Stab them on the ramparts! Draw out your line! Put a guard to the powder cellars! Open one of the gates! The cavalry will enter on the enemy. Turn his guns against him! Fire down the streets! Fire briskly! There's no time

to run after them! When the order is given, enter the town! Kill every enemy in the streets! Let the cavalry hack them! Enter no houses! Storm them in the open places, where they are gathering! Take possession of the open places! Put a capital guard! Instantly put picquets to the gates, to the powder-cellars, and to the magazines! When the enemy has surrendered, give him quarter! When the inner wall is occupied, go to plunder!"

There are three military talents:—

1. *The Coup d'œil.*

"How to place a camp.—How to march.—Where to attack—to chase—and to beat the enemy.

2. *Celerity.*

"The field artillery must march half or a whole verst in front on the rising ground, that it may not impede the march of the columns. When the column arrives it will find its place again. Down hill, and on even ground, let it go in a trot. Soldiers march in files, or four a-breast, on account of narrow roads, streets, narrow bridges, and nar-

row passes through marshy and swampy places; and only when ready for attack, drawn up in platoons to shorten the rear. When you march four a-breast, leave a space between the companies. Never slacken your pace! Walk on! Play! Sing your songs! Beat the drum! When you have broken off ten versts, the first company cast off their load,* and lie down. After them, the second company; and so forth, one after the other. But the first never wait for the rest! A line in columns will, on the march, always draw out. At four a-breast, it will always draw out one and a half more than its length. At two a-breast it will draw out double. A line, one verst in length, will draw out two. Two versts will draw out four; so the first companies would have to wait for the others half-an-hour to no purpose. After the first ten versts, an hour's rest. The first division that arrives, upon the coming of the second, takes up his baggage, and moves forward ten or fifteen paces; and if it passes through defiles, on the march, fifteen or twenty paces. And in this manner, division after division, that the hindmost may get rest.

* Knapsacks.

The second ten versts, another hour's rest or more. If the third distance be less than ten versts, halve it and rest three-quarters, half, or a quarter of an hour, that the children * may soon get to their kettles. So much for infantry.

The cavalry marches before. They alight from their horses, and rest a short time; and march more than ten versts in one stage, that the horses may rest in the camp. The kettle-wagons and the tent-wagons go on before. When the brothers arrive, the kettle is ready. The master of the mess instantly serves out the kettle. For breakfast, four hours' rest, and six or eight hours at night according as the road proves.

"When you draw near the enemy, the kettle-wagons remain with the tent-wagons, and wood must be prepared beforehand. By this manner of marching soldiers suffer no fatigue!! The enemy does not expect us. He reckons us at least an hundred versts distant; and when we

* And brothers, appellations given by Suwaroff to his troops; "brat" like the Hindostanee word "baï," (brother,) being much used in Russia as well as in that country. This coincidence is singular.

come from far, two or three hundred, or more. We fall all at once upon him, like snow on the head! His head turns. Attack instantly with whatever arrives; with what God sends. The cavalry instantly fall to work—hack and slash! stab and drive! cut them off! don't give them a moment's rest.

3. *Energy.*

"One leg strengthens the other! one hand fortifies the other! By firing, many men are killed! The enemy has also hands, but he knows not the Russian bayonet! (alluding to the Turks.) Draw out the line immediately, and instantly attack with cold arms! (the bayonet.) If there be not time to draw out the line, attack, from the defile, the infantry with the bayonet; and the cavalry will be at hand. If there be a defile for a verst and cartridges over your heads, the guns will be yours! Commonly, the cavalry make the first attack, and the infantry follow. In general, cavalry must attack like infantry, except in swampy ground, and there they must lead their horses by the bridle. Cossacks will go through anything.

When the battle is gained, the cavalry pursue and hack the enemy, and the infantry are not to remain behind. In two files, there is strength; in three files, strength and a half.* The first tears, the second throws down, the third perfects the work."

* A mode of expression common among the lower orders.

CHAPTER XIII.

Efficiency of the army—General Yermoloff—General Mouravieff—Talent rewarded—The Russian soldier—His courage—Commissariat and medical departments — Suwaroff's pharmacopœia — "I don't know"—Invasion of India.

It must be admitted that the men, horses, and "matériel" of the Russian army are apparently in a very complete and effective state. No expense is spared either in dress or appointments to make the men so, and the adjutant and drill-sergeant are always at their elbows. The officers of the junior ranks, however, are far from having even a soldier-like appearance, and for the reasons I have before stated, are not very capable or intelligent. The efficiency of the whole is much neutralized by the utterly neglected state of the interior economy, the corrupt practices of the

senior officers, and the extremely defective state of the Commissariat and Medical departments.

The two most distinguished officers in the service, Yermoloff and Mouravieff, are now both on the shelf. I have already alluded to the singular method which the former took to make himself popular with the troops. When some caprice of the Emperor's, or the intrigues of those about him, induced his Imperial Majesty to place him "en rètraite," he retired to Moscow, where from the reputation of his services and the circumstance of his being in bad odour at St. Petersburgh, he became so much the fashion, that no party was thought perfect without him. When Yermoloff appeared, and then only, the music struck up; every one crowded around him, and evinced as much attention and respect as if he had been a crowned head. The Emperor, hearing that the Muscovites intended to elect him Maréchal of the Noblesse in the very teeth of the displeasure he had manifested towards him, with his usual policy anticipated a measure which would have marked his own defeat. Yermoloff was offered reconciliation and employment; the former he accepted,

the latter, held out only as a bait, was never given; and he lost by tergiversation the position which his previous conduct had placed him in, for there is a party in Moscow, though small, who can admire independent feeling.

Lieutenant-General Mouravieff commenced his career as a lieutenant in a regiment quartered in Georgia, of which country he was afterwards many years Governor-General. It is acknowledged that there is no officer in the Russian army of the same talents and acquirements; he has great capabilities as a linguist, and is said to speak thirteen languages, many of them Eastern. Though more than acquainted with the duties of his profession, he never, like the martinet of Warsaw, examined whether the men's gloves were sewn on the inside or out; nor did he care whether their caps were put on at the precise angle prescribed by the Imperial orderly-book at St. Petersburgh: moreover, he had opinions of his own, not exactly in accordance with those of his master. A few years ago, his division was ordered to one of the great reviews; but though in a good and effective state, its appearance did not meet with the appro-

bation of the Emperor, who had scarcely glanced his eye along the line, when he ordered Mouravieff to the rear, exclaiming aloud, "bad, bad! what troops! National Guards!" The manœuvres over, the disgraced general was ordered into his presence. "What means this, sir?" demanded the Emperor. No answer. "What troops do you call these, sir?"—still no answer. "Do you know who is speaking to you, sir?" The general raised his hand slowly to his cap, but remained silent. Dismissed with indignation, he retired to his tent; the policy, however, of Nicholas gained the ascendant over his ungovernable temper, and the next day Mouravieff received an invitation to dinner: but the insult had been too public; he declined the honour, and now resides at his estate near Tver, refusing either reconciliation or employment. With these two exceptions, no great talent has been displayed of late years by those who have held the highest commands in the service; the abilities of Paskewitch are considered greatly overrated, even by many of his countrymen. The blunders made by the Russian generals during the revolution in Poland, the war in

Turkey, the one now carrying on in Circassia, and the Khiva expedition, go far to prove the correctness of this assertion. But though little talent has been manifested amongst the officers, the men, as such, are very effective; and the "morale" of the army, being based on religious enthusiasm, is likely—nay, almost certain—to support them under the most trying circumstances. The Russian soldier, and the manner in which his courage is excited, has been admirably described by Ségur. Previously to the battle of Borodino, says the Count, "l'armée Russe était sous les armes: Kutusoff, entouré de toutes les pompes religieuses et militaires, s'avançait au milieu d'elle; le général a fait revêtir à ses papes et aux archimandrites leurs riches et majestueux vêtements, heritage des Grecs. Ils le précèdent portant les signes révérés de la religion, et surtout cette sainte image naguère protectrice de Smolensk, qu'ils disent s'être miraculeusement soustraite aux profanations des Français sacrilèges, * * * * * piété et patriotisme, vertus d'instinct chez ces peuples trop grossiers, et qui n'étaient encore qu'aux sensations, mais, par cela même, soldats d'autant plus redout-

ables moins distraits de l'obeissance par le raisonnement; restreints par l'esclavage dans un cercle étroit, où ils sont reduits à un petit nombre de sensations, qui sont les seules sources des besoins, des desirs, des idées.

" Du reste orgueilleux, par défaut de comparaison, et crédules comme ils sont orgueilleux par ignorance. Adorant des images, idolâtres autant que des Chrétiens peuvent l'être, car cette religion de l'esprit, toute intellectuelle et morale, ils l'ont fait toute physique et matérielle pour la mettre à leur brute et courte portée.

" Mais enfin ce spectacle solennel, ce discours, les exhortations de leurs officiers, les benedictions de leurs prêtres, achevèrent de fanatiser leur courage. Tous jusqu'aux moindres soldats se crurent dévoués par Dieu lui même à la défense du ciel et de leur sol sacré."

But what avail the courage and numbers of an army unless the commanders are possessed of talent and discretion? The losses of the Russians in the Turkish war, amounted to upwards of three hundred thousand men, not by the sword but owing to the want of judgment in taking up

positions in places where the troops were exposed to the fevers common to the marshy valleys of Roumelia. The distress which the army suffered from the want of supplies was inexcusable, with granaries of their own immediately in their rear, and their fleet in command of the Black Sea. In one regiment alone, and quite at the early part of the campaign, five hundred horses died from want of forage, before they crossed the Pruth. The medical department was also in a most disgraceful state of inefficiency. The medicine chests furnished by the Colonels of regiments, for which they draw an allowance, contained then, as now, only a few aperients and emetics; it is true, there was a goodly array of bottles and boxes, duly labelled, but no quinine or other medicines that were necessary to the cure of the diseases which decimated the army during this war. The same mismanagement took place in Persia; and of one regiment, three thousand strong, serving in that country, only fifty men remained in 1839, nearly all having died of disease. The system of pillage which the troops were driven to adopt, from the wretched state of the commissariat, made them, independently of other circumstances,

thoroughly detested by the inhabitants. In conversation, one day, with an aide-de-camp of the Emperor's, at St. Petersburgh, upon the state of the sick list amongst the guards, I was not a little astonished at his telling me that mercury and quinine were medicines too expensive to be given to the men; and when I adverted as politely as I could, to the inhumanity, as well as false economy, of such a system, he replied, "Ah, mon cher! a soldier in Russia costs nothing." It might be supposed that this branch of the service had been modelled upon the rules with which Suwaroff's catechism concludes.

"Have a dread of the hospital!" says the Marshal. "*German* physic stinks from afar, is good for nothing, and rather hurtful. A *Russian* soldier is not used to it. Messmates know where to find roots, herbs, and pismires. A soldier is inestimable! Take care of your health! Scour the stomach, when it is foul! Hunger is the best medicine. He who neglects his men, if an officer—*arrest;* if a sub-officer—*lashes;* and to the private *lashes*, if he neglects himself. If loose bowels want food, at sunset

a little gruel and bread. For costive bowels, some purging plant in warm water, or the liquorice root. Remember, gentlemen! *the field physic of Dr. Bellypotsky!* * In hot fevers, eat nothing, even for twelve days, and drink your quass, that is a soldier's physic. In intermittent fevers neither eat nor drink. It is only a punishment for neglect, if health ensues. In hospitals, the first day the bed seems soft, the second comes French soup, and the third the brother is laid in his coffin and they draw him away! One dies, and ten companions around him inhale his expiring breath. In camp, the sick and feeble are kept in huts not in villages; there the air is purer, even without an hospital. You must not stint your money for medicine if it can be bought; nor even for other necessaries. But all this is frivolous, we know how to preserve ourselves! where one dies in a hundred with others, we lose not one in five hundred, in the course of a month. For the healthy, *drink, air, and food,*—for the sick, *air, drink, and food.* Brothers, the enemy trembles for you; but there is another enemy greater than the hospital—the d——d '*I*

* Professor Pallas supposes this to have been a manual of medicine, published for the use of the army.

don't know!' From the half confessing, the guessing, lying, deceitful, the palavering equivocation, squeamishness, and nonsense of '*don't know,*' many disasters originate. Stammering, hackering —and so forth; it's shameful to relate! A soldier should be sound, brave, firm, decisive, true, honourable! Pray to God! from him comes victory, and miracles. God conducts, God is our general! for the '*I don't know*' an officer is put in the guard-house—a staff officer is served with an arrest at home. Instruction is *light!* not instruction is *darkness! The work fears its master!* * If a peasant knows not how to plough, the corn will not grow! One wise man is worth three fools! and even three are little, give six! and even six are little, give ten! One clever fellow will beat them all—overthrow them, and take them prisoners. † In the last campaign, the enemy lost

* A Russian Proverb.

† Here Suwaroff is a little in his favourite character of the buffoon. He generally closed his harangues by endeavouring to excite laughter among his troops; and this mode of forming a climax is a peculiar characteristic of the Russian boors. In this manner:—"And not only of the boors; but the gentry! and not only of the gentry; but the nobles! and not only of the nobles, but the Emperor!"

seventy-five thousand well counted men,—perhaps not much less than a hundred thousand; he fought desperately and artfully, and we lost not a full thousand. There, brethren, you behold the effect of military instruction! Gentlemen officers, what a triumph!!"

In concluding this subject, I venture to affirm that we have little to fear from Russia as an open enemy; the invasion of India is a tale only fit for the nursery. Her army, though large and well disciplined, requires a great deal to make it efficient, certainly, for such an undertaking; and being spread over a vast extent of country, the concentration of an adequate force could not be effected without great difficulty. To accomplish this, she would be obliged to withdraw a large proportion of her troops from Poland, Georgia, and Circassia, a measure fraught with peril; and where are we to look for a hero of the Granicus? surely not in Russia. But her gold and spies have done, and continue to do, us great injury in Central Asia; there is not a state or province, between her frontier and Burmah, in which traces of her secret interference may not be found.

CHAPTER XIV.

RUSSIAN CIVILIZATION.

St. Vladimir—Coinage—Ivan the Terrible—The fair of Narva—Michael Romanoff—Alexis—Fœdor—Peter the Great—His intelligence and persevering disposition—His cruelty and brutality—Foundation of St. Petersburgh—Legislation—Princess Daschkoff—Her character of Peter.

It may be said, that to enable a person to arrive at a just opinion of the state of the civilization of a country, it is necessary that he should be long resident in it: but this is not the case in Russia. That of which she so proudly boasts, is foreign in its character, has been forced rapidly to its present point, and the numbers affected by it are few in proportion to her population. It is not interwoven with the habits and feelings of the people, in the endless variety of ways in which the different classes of other European nations are affected by it. Its extent, therefore, and working, may be seen with less difficulty, and in a much shorter period. A

year's residence gave me an opportunity of observing at least the strong features of Russian character, which I now lay before the reader as they presented themselves to me.

Before proceeding further, however, it will be as well perhaps, to notice a few points connected with the early history of the country, and those Tzars who interested themselves in advancing its improvement. These bright spots are few indeed. Christianity was tarnished at its introduction by the fearful cruelty and brutal caprice of Vladimir's conduct at his conversion and baptism, and relieved but little the horrors that characterized Russian history for several centuries; though his own conduct was ever after softened by the precepts of that religion which, however sullied, was never useless. His nature became changed, the cruelty of his disposition gave way to clemency and humility, and when awarding punishments for crime, he is said to have exclaimed, "What am I that I should condemn a fellow creature to death?" He endeavoured to overcome the violent prejudices of his subjects, and founded seminaries for the education

of the young nobles, in which he placed professors that he obtained from Greece: from that country he also introduced architects and workmen. Such was the conduct of Vladimir, who lived upwards of seven hundred years before Peter the Great.

In common, however, with all early and barbarous histories, superstition, breach of faith, and cruelty, in all their forms, continued to be but too prominently displayed. The towns of Moscow and Tver were the first to adopt a Tartar coin; thus proving that even these wild hordes had been in some things beforehand with the Russians, whose previous currency was skins and pieces of leather. Twenty of the latter, being marked with a certain stamp, passed for a grievnik. This species of money very soon became depreciated; so much so, that in the year 1409, it took one hundred and twenty pieces of leather to make a silver grievnik, which, at that period, was, in the principality of Kief, nine and a half, and in that of Novogorod, thirteen ounces of silver. The coin which goes by that name in the present day is worth ten silver copecks, about fourpence English. The

first Russian money was coined at Novogorod, in the reign of Basil the Second; the commerce of that city with the Hans Towns led to this. Basil died in 1425.

Ivan the Third, a powerful and ambitious prince, signed treaties of alliance and friendship with, and received ambassadors from, the Pope, the Sultan, the Kings of Denmark and Poland, and the Republic of Venice. It was this sovereign who assumed the title of Grand Prince, and changed the ancient arms of St. George on horseback for the Black Eagle with two heads, after his marriage with Sophia, a princess of the Imperial blood of Constantinople. He died in 1505, after a reign of forty-three years.

Ivan the Fourth, surnamed the Terrible, took the title of Tzar. His natural disposition was violent and cruel, though tempered by the gentle influence of his first wife; but after her death he became more outrageous than ever.

Independently of the many and dreadful acts of barbarity of which he was guilty, he killed his own son in a paroxysm of rage, but died a prey to the grief and remorse which this fearful crime occa-

sioned him. He endeavoured to atone for it by giving sums of money to different monasteries, and received the tonsure in his last moments. As a legislator he was superior to his predecessors, having with the assistance of his nobles, compiled a code of laws called Soudebnik. In his reign, an English ship, commanded by Richard Chancellor, on a voyage of discovery in the North Seas, anchored in the mouth of the Dwina; information of this circumstance was sent to Ivan, who ordered Chancellor to Moscow. On his arrival there he was received with marked attention, and presented with a letter to carry back to his sovereign, expressing the desire of the Tzar to have over English workmen and artificers, and enter into commercial relations with England. In this he was sufficiently successful to alarm the jealousy of Gustavus the First. The fair which he established at Narva was so glutted with Dutch, English, and French goods, that some of them were sold for less than the prime cost in their respective countries. Previously to this reign, the levies for the army had been raised on the feudal system. I have already alluded to the improvements which

Ivan effected in this branch of the government. He also controlled his religious prejudices, and tolerated the Lutheran Churches of the German merchants at Moscow; but he never shook hands with a foreign ambassador without washing his own immediately after his visitor had taken his leave. With a character so strongly marked by cruelty, superstition, and caprice, it is singular to find not only that he possessed enterprise and much intelligence, but that he should ever have entertained the idea of placing the Scriptures in the hands of his subjects in the mother tongue: he did, however, order a translation to be made of the Acts and Epistles, and had it disseminated over his dominions. He died in 1584, having reigned fifty-one years.

Civil and foreign wars continued with little intermission up to the time of Michael Romanoff, who was elected Tzar at Moscow by the Boyards and proprietors of land assembled there from all parts of the empire; he was then only sixteen years of age, and from him descended the present Imperial family. With the assistance of foreign officers he greatly improved the army, and erected

fortresses to check the incursions of the Tartars. He died in 1645, after a reign of thirty-two years, leaving behind him a character distinguished for virtue and benevolence. His son, Alexis, the father of Peter the Great, succeeded him. He was of a mild and benevolent disposition compared with what most of his predecessors had been, or what his renowned son was after him. In his reign the first communications took place with China; and he established manufactories of cloth, iron, silk, and woollen in different parts of the empire. He also caused various works on the arts and sciences to be translated into Russ; and contemplated having a fleet on the Caspian. Shipwrights came over from Holland and England; and a Dutchman, named Butler, built the "Eagle" at Didiloff. She was the first ship that the Russians had seen built on scientific principles.

This sovereign died in 1676, and was succeeded by his son, Fœdor, who died young, in 1681. During the short period allotted him for the exercise of power, he evinced every disposition to carry out his father's plans for the prosperity of his dominions; and his was one of the very few

instances of a reign in which neither rebellions nor massacres occurred. He directed his attention to the improvement of the laws, and rendered justice accessible to every one. To correct the folly and weakness of his nobles in their inordinate love of pedigree, and to remedy the evils which it created in the executive of his government, for no one would take service of any kind under another whose family he considered less distinguished than his own, he assembled the nobility and clergy at Moscow, and in an eloquent address, in which he laid before them the absurdity of such a custom, ordered the whole of their records and genealogies to be brought into one of the courts in the Kremlin, and burned them in their presence. He was assisted on this occasion by the Patriarch, who excited the feelings of the assembly to such a height that when he pronounced a curse upon those who might venture to oppose the decree, the ceremony closed with a general shout of approbation. Fœdor, in the words of a Russian historian, "lived the joy and delight of his people, and died amidst their sighs and tears. On the day of his death, Moscow was

in the same distress that Rome was on the death of Titus."

In 1689, Peter the Great was finally established on the throne. The Russians date their civilization from his reign; but a slight glance at the history of the Tzars I have mentioned will show that in many of the points on which the greatness of his reputation rests, he was anticipated by his predecessors. Dark and savage as the history of the country is, an attempt at public education had been made, religious toleration, and an anxiety to promote commerce existed, and the institution of a code of laws had already occupied their attention. The untimely deaths of some of these princes deprived Russia of monarchs far more benevolent than Peter—men of finer and more generous minds; and, though not so ambitious, quite as anxious for her welfare. Under their sway, no such rush at improvement would have been made, no such overwhelming influx of foreigners and their habits would have taken place; but if not so rapidly, at least as surely, they would have effected quite as much real good. Peter was courageous, and intelligent, and possessed, in an eminent degree, the national

characteristics of a persevering mind, and the capability of enduring privation and bodily fatigue to an almost incredible extent. His manual dexterity was great, and he exercised it in graving, turning, and carpenters' and shipwrights' work. But though his industry was remarkable, it is utterly impossible he could have executed all the relics that are shown at St. Petersburgh and Moscow as the fruits of his labour in his leisure hours; to have made them he must have lived all his life at the lathe, or with a chisel in his hand.

He was cruel, and not only delighted in witnessing scenes of blood and suffering, but actually took pleasure in executing the objects of his vengeance with his own hand; not once, like the "Boar of Ardennes," but many times, at different periods of his life. Prinz, the Prussian Ambassador, states, that during the massacre of the Strelitzes, this monster, in human shape, invited him to an entertainment, and having ordered twenty of these unfortunate wretches into the room during the repast, beheaded them in his presence: as each head rolled on the floor, he tossed off a bumper, and invited the Ambassador

to take his turn in this royal pastime. Though he did not actually murder his son with his own hand, he caused his death under circumstances infinitely more cruel and deliberate than Ivan the Terrible did that of his; but, so far from dying of grief and remorse, like that monarch, he shed a few tears, and pursued his schemes of ambition without any further manifestation of feeling.

His coarse and licentious disposition was exhibited not only in private, but in public, and his conduct at the court of Berlin, as mentioned in the Memoirs of the Margravine of Bareith, was, perhaps, never equalled by the very lowest and most depraved person of any age or nation. St. Petersburgh is a specimen of his obstinate selfishness. He selected a spot which was known to be subject to the inundations of the Neva in west and south-west winds. The awful calamity of 1824 is a melancholy proof of the fact, and a terrifying warning of what may occur again. The expense of driving piles, and making foundations for the city, nearly equalled that of the buildings themselves; and so many workmen were sacrificed in their erection, that it

was said the Tzar built his capital over the bodies of his subjects: but what signified a few thousand lives in Peter's policy? Fertile in resources, when once his plans were matured, the "matériel" for their execution was soon found, whether men or money; there was no check upon his application of either, and his own nature was incapable of the slightest sentiment of compassion for those, by whose exertions his ambitious plans were to be carried into effect. He legislated for posterity on the worst system of tyranny that he could have adopted—a military one,—and left no code of laws established on the broad principles of justice, nor a gleam of freedom for his people. He could not, however great, have perfected either of these, but his mind never conceived them. Though he travelled in England and Holland, he thought only of their navies, and wholly overlooked those great principles in their governments, by which he might have ameliorated the condition and increased the happiness of his subjects.

Trial by jury appears never to have attracted his attention. Peter, it is true, reigned over a nation of serfs, so did Alfred, and in the ninth,

instead of the eighteenth century. The Tzar was anxious to stand for something in the "balance of Europe," as the modern phrase goes, and he did so, with the assistance of his foreign officers, by dint of drill and superiority of numbers. Most of his schemes of aggrandizement were undertaken for the gratification of his own vanity, and a careful scrutiny of his character must end in the conviction that, though intelligent and enterprising, and possessed of considerable acquirement, he was a great barbarian. His countrywoman, the Princess Daschkoff remarks, that Peter's greatness is attributed to him by foreigners, in consequence of his having effected every thing with their assistance, and gives, in many respects, a just view of his character:—

"Before the birth of this monarch, Russia had made great conquests; Kazan, Astrakan, and Siberia, as well as the rich and warlike nation, known under the title of the Golden Horde, had submitted to our arms; and long before any of his ancestors had been called to fill the throne, the arts had taken refuge, and were cherished in Russia. I am ready to acknowledge the merits

of this extraordinary man; he had genius, activity, and an unfeigned zeal to promote the improvement of his country; but how were these qualities overwhelmed by his total want of education, and the tyranny of his outrageous passions! Cruel and brutal, he treated all without distinction, who were subject to his sway, as slaves who were born to suffer. Had he possessed the mind of a great legislator, he would have permitted the example of other nations, the effect of commerce, and the sure reform of time, to have had their united weight in bringing about those improvements, which he, with violence, introduced; or had he known how to estimate the noble and respectable qualities of our ancestors, he would never have sought to efface the originality of their character, by the impress of foreign habits and manners, which he prized so much above our own. With regard to laws, this monarch, after setting aside the code of his forefathers, so often changed his own, with no other view, sometimes, as it would seem, than to assert his right of doing so at pleasure, that they soon ceased to inspire reverence, and consequently lost half their power. The

nobility, as well as the slaves, were equally the victims of his innovating frenzy; the one he deprived of their conservative tribunal, their only appeal in cases of oppression, and the other of all their privileges. And for what? to clear the way for the introduction of a military despotism, of all forms of government, the one most hateful and pernicious. The vain-glorious aiming at the fame of a creator, hastened the building of Petersburgh, by circumstances so little mingled with mercy, that thousands of workmen perished in the marshes. One of his edifices, indeed, of great labour and expense, might have been spared, had it not been wanting to the glory at which the founder of the city aspired, and that is an admiralty and dock-yards on the banks of a river, which no labour could render navigable for ships of war, or even for merchant vessels with the most moderate cargoes."

CHAPTER XV.

Death of Peter the Great—Catherine—Peter II.—Elizabeth—Peter III.—Catherine the Great—Paul—Alexander.

THE death of Peter the Great, principally owing to the diseases which he had contracted by excessive debauchery, took place in 1725, at the age of fifty-two years. How far his attempts at improvement affected the characters, not only of his countrymen, but of his own descendants, will be seen in the conduct of succeeding sovereigns, which presents a collection of horrible and infamous crimes, that his predecessors, with all their want of civilization, had scarcely exceeded. Catherine, who survived him only two years, is said to have been poisoned by Mentchikoff; others state that she had an

extraordinary habit of passing her nights in a sledge in the open air, and gave herself up to intoxication, which, no doubt, contributed to cause her premature death, at the age of thirty-eight years. The reduction of the capitation tax was the most popular act of her short reign; she also established an Academy of Sciences, and Delisle, Baer, and the Bernouillis were amongst its most distinguished members. Peter, the son of Alexis, and grandson of Peter the Great, (by his first wife, Eudoxia), who succeeded the late Empress, died of the small pox, at the age of fifteen. In him the male line of the Romanoffs became extinct; his intellect was good, and, what was more to the purpose, his heart also; and, though so young, he gave great promise of being an honour and a blessing to his country. On his accession to the throne, he addressed a letter to his sister, in the following words:—"It having pleased God to call me, in my tender youth, to be the Emperor of all Russia, my principal care shall be to acquire the reputation of a good sovereign by governing my people in righteousness, and in the fear of God; by hearkening to the complaints of the

poor and the distressed, and granting them relief; and, after the laudable example of Vespasian, letting no man go sorrowfully from me."

Anne, duchess of Courland, who followed this youthful sovereign, was the daughter of Ivan, half-brother of Peter the Great, and died in 1740, after a reign of ten years. She exerted herself in advancing the interests of commerce, and established several woollen and silk manufactories.

Ivan, the infant son of the Prince and Princess of Brunswick, was named as her successor; but Elizabeth, the daughter of Peter the Great, formed a party against him and his parents, and succeeded in placing herself on the throne. The young prince was confined in the monastery of Oranienburg, and his father and mother were imprisoned at Kolmogory, where Anne died in childbed, in 1746, a prey to grief at being separated from her son. Her husband died also in prison, in 1780. Ivan, who had sunk into a state of idiotcy, after having been removed to different monasteries, was at length murdered at the castle of Schlusselburg; and, though there is no positive proof, it is strongly suspected that Catherine II. sanctioned his assas-

sination. Elizabeth was a most profound hypocrite; for while she abolished capital punishments, and pretended, from feelings of humanity, to deplore the miseries of war, and weep over the victories gained by her own troops, she established a political inquisition, and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on persons arrested on mere suspicion: many died under the knout. She however endowed an University and two Gymnasiums at Moscow; her taste for architecture greatly contributed to embellish St. Petersburgh, and she instituted the Academy for painting and sculpture in that capital. This Empress, a second Messalina, accelerated her death by her profligacy and licentious conduct; her fear of assassination was so great, that, independently of the guards stationed near her room, a man, who had originally been a tailor, slept at the foot of her bed for twenty-two years: she died in 1761.

Peter III., her nephew, the son of her sister Anne and the Duke of Holstein, succeeded her. His short career as a sovereign was characterized, in the early part of it, by generous and judicious actions. He recalled Munich, Biren, and others,

with upwards of sixteen thousand exiles, from Siberia; suppressed a kind of star-chamber, which had been established by Alexis; formed a police; reduced the duties in Livonia; instituted a loan-bank, and exerted himself to improve the administration of justice throughout the empire. He renounced the ancient right of obliging the nobility to bear arms at the pleasure of the sovereign, and allowed them to travel in foreign countries without hindrance; but a neglected education, and great vacillation of mind, prevailed over better impulses, and his conduct to the Empress Catherine excited her to form those intrigues which cost him, in less than two years, his throne and his life. He was murdered by Alexis Orloff, Tepelhoff and Baratinski, in the prison of Ropscha. When it was reported at Court that the Emperor was ill, Catherine pretended extreme anxiety for his recovery, and desired her physician to attend him without delay: he hurried to Ropscha, and found him dead. Returning to his imperial mistress, he informed her of the fact, when she inquired of what disease the Emperor had died. The doctor silently drew his handkerchief from

his pocket, and twisting it several times, said, "Like that; like that."

Catherine the Great was married, and introduced to this profligate court at the age of sixteen. This appears to have had its full effect upon her subsequent conduct, and fifteen lovers were said to have shared her favours. Some authors accuse her of having connived at her husband's death; but this is contradicted by others. Her great talents must be universally acknowledged; and though her energies were displayed principally in carrying out her schemes of foreign conquest, she by no means neglected the interior economy of her empire. Her views on all subjects were far more enlarged than those of her predecessors, and upwards of six thousand children were educated at St. Petersburgh at the public expense. The jurisprudence of the country was in a most confused state, to remedy which she assembled the nobility and deputies from all parts of the Empire at Moscow, and explained to them her opinions as to the best method of carrying some improvements into execution. One of the principal points discussed during these debates was the emancipa-

tion of the serfs, to which Count Cheremetieff, the richest landed proprietor in Russia, declared himself favourable; but he met with such strong opposition from the rest of the nobility, that the meeting separated without coming to any decision, and the project for the new code failed entirely.

The Samoiedes, natives of the shores of the White Sea, distinguished themselves on this occasion by their honest simplicity. "We want no new code," said they, "but make laws for our neighbours the Russians, that will stop their depredations."

The empress invited literary and scientific men to her court; and Pallas, Euler, and Gmelin were employed in surveying her territories and describing their various characteristics. Catherine was also an ardent admirer of the philosophy of the French school, and requested d'Alembert to undertake the education of her grandson, the Grand Duke Alexander, which fortunately for the young prince, he declined; she also corresponded with Voltaire. Her toleration, therefore, appears to have arisen from complete indifference to religion, rather than from a feeling of Christian bene-

volence. She confirmed, however, the abolition of the secret state inquisition, and by dividing the college of the empire into separate departments, facilitated the despatch of business, and rendered the administration in each more efficient. With a view to repress the corruption which prevailed both in courts of justice and other public offices, she raised the salaries of the employés; monopolies, which were in the hands of companies, individuals, and even of the crown, were put down, and she encouraged trade in many articles which had hitherto borne a prohibitive duty. Many of the taxes were reduced. Persons serving the government for two years without pay were declared free; and no landed proprietor was permitted to send his serfs to his mines in Siberia, nor to any distant part of the empire, but for agricultural purposes. Her magnificence and lavish expenditure of the public revenues in the ceremonies, pageants, and entertainments of her court were, however, carried to a pitch of extravagance even greater than that of Elizabeth; and upwards of £40,000,000 were thrown away upon her favourites.

Though Catherine's reign was marked by many

acts of severity and injustice, she did more for the civilization of Russia than any of her predecessors. This extraordinary woman died of an apoplectic stroke on the 9th of November, 1796, in the sixty-eighth year of her age, and thirty-fifth of her reign. She was succeeded by her son Paul, the first act of whose reign was to order the exhumation of his father's body, which he re-interred with that of the deceased empress, and made the assassins Orloff and Baratinski act as chief mourners.

The character of Paul was a compound of brutality, tyranny, generosity, and insanity. On one occasion, he struck a nobleman, saying, "the salutation by the hand of me Paul." The roads were crowded by the sledges and kibitkas of those whom he had condemned to exile in Siberia; yet he founded hospitals for his soldiers, relieved the distresses of many by pensions, and liberated Kosiusko and several of his countrymen who had been imprisoned for their noble efforts in defence of their liberties. The extremes of his conduct made him contemptible in the eyes of the nobility, and a few of them, specially instigated by the

Count Pahlen, assassinated him in the palace of St. Michael on the night of the 22nd of March, 1801. The circumstances of his death were peculiarly horrible. The wretched monarch taken by surprize in the dead of night, with his only sentry murdered at his bed-room door, firmly refused the demand of the conspirators, to abdicate in favour of his son; at last, after some parley, one of them suddenly threw him on his knees, when Benningsen seeing that by this act they were too deeply involved to recede, gave the signal for despatching him. The Emperor defended himself to the last, and in the confusion which then took place, as they all assailed him, the lamp was extinguished. Benningsen left the room to fetch a light, and on his return a few minutes after, for it was some time before he could obtain one, found that all was over. The body was treated with every kind of savage indignity—a good proof of the high state of refinement and civilization that class of society had attained to which the conspirators belonged. The body of Paul was scarcely cold before the congratulations of the nobility were presented to Alexander, who had been thus unexpectedly and

fearfully placed on his father's throne. The new Emperor possessed a character becoming his exalted rank. His disposition was kind and generous, his manners mild and amiable, and his moderation prevented him from ever abusing his unlimited power. His talents were good, though not brilliant, and his greatness of mind was never fully developed till the invasion of his country by the French. This aroused all his energies, and exhibited him to the world conducting himself with consummate discretion and unflinching steadiness in that alarming crisis. Alexander never possessed the inordinate passion for conquest and military glory which former sovereigns had indulged to such an excessive degree; and in confirming to Poland a constitution in which were included the privileges of legislation, representation of the people, and the right of imposing their own taxes, he evinced a liberality of feeling that never even entered the imaginations of his predecessors.

He made some judicious improvements in the government of his own country, and the ukase that prohibited the confiscation of hereditary pro-

perty in the case of all criminals, whether noble or not, was an extension of the principles of justice which had hitherto been limited to the former class. Under the influence of the Empress mother and his wife, the extravagance, love of display, and licentiousness of the court were materially repressed.

The Emperor died on his tour through Southern Russia in a mean and wretchedly furnished house near Taganrog. The last few months of his life were embittered by the state of affairs in Poland, and defection in the fifth corps of the army. Alexander left a noble example, not only to his country but to his class. When the news of his death spread over his vast dominions, he was universally deplored; and the murmur of regret in other countries responded to the grief of Russia. A singular circumstance was related to me as having occurred to him a short time before his death, when visiting a lunatic asylum in the south of Russia. In the course of his walk round the establishment, he addressed a few words to several of the unhappy inmates. "Do you know me?" said he to one of them. "Know you?" replied

the maniac; "how is it possible not to know a man who murdered his father?" The Emperor noticed the reply only by the melancholy that passed over his countenance. He whose life had been a denial to the foul insinuation felt pained that even one bereft of reason should allude to it. Alexander's energy and good qualities have been generally received as characteristic of the nation, and have been arrogated by the Russians to themselves.

CHAPTER XVI.

Accession of Nicholas—Military mania—The Imperial nursery—General Lamarque—Extent of civilization—Administration of the laws—Police—Customs—A living mummy—An exposé—The secret police.

THE accession of Nicholas, in December, 1825, was marked by an insurrection in the guards and fifth corps of the army, which was put down by the Emperor with extraordinary firmness and courage. Several of the nobility were concerned in this attempt at revolution; amongst those detected were the Counts Orloff and the Prince Volkonsky. The ramifications of this plot were far greater than were suspected at the time; and if nothing had occurred to excite the parties to premature action, its results would, in all probability, have been very different.

All liberal ideas of government died with Alexander: it is now, to the letter, absolute and military —two characteristics sufficiently appalling; but the latter is the most blighting in its effects. In this respect the present Emperor has shown the same fatal predilection as Peter the Great. Military despotism, which he first systematized in this country, has been more or less the prevailing feature of its government under succeeding monarchs; and peculiarly falls in with the taste of Nicholas. At a late inspection of one of the military colonies he exercised a regiment consisting of six hundred boys —the colonel being only eleven years of age; and they are said to have gone through their manœuvres with all the precision of old soldiers. The lavish expenditure in reviews, from which no benefit is derived, and which take place merely to gratify his extraordinary passion for playing at soldiers, is perfectly absurd.

The garrison of the capital amounts to one-fifth of the population. Such is the military tone and organization given to and spread over the social system of the country, and every branch of the government, that the rank and privileges of the

nobility; foundling hospitals and education; literature, civil law, physic, and the navy are all modelled, and the aspirants to, or students in either, are drilled after the most approved system of military discipline. Even the little Grand-Dukes and Grand Duchesses are surrounded by the insignia of modern warfare; and their nursery has all the appearance of an arsenal in miniature.

Let the civilization which this system induces be considered with regard to its *extent*, and the proportions in which the different classes of the population are affected by it. The "Journal des Debâts," of the year 1830, gives the following statistical account of the Russian population.

Of both sexes.

Nobles	580,000
Clergy	400,000
Merchants	300,000
Tradesmen	1,000,000
Cultivators, exempt from capitation	2,500,000
Cossacks	2,200,000
Serfs	34,000,000
Employés	120,000

Army and Navy . .	1,000,000
Savages (" Sauvages ") .	1,000,000
Jews . . .	210,000
	43,310,000

General Lamarque observes, that "these calculations are of great value; for they prove that for a long time to come, there can only be des revolutions de palais in Russia, or an insurrection like that of the negroes in St. Domingo. This civilization, the progress of which they boast so much, is not very advanced in a country so vast as Russia, which contains only three hundred thousand merchants. Let time take its course, the Russians are encore au temps de Louis le Gros."

The following more correct and recent statement is taken from Krusenstern's Précis du Système des Progrès et de l'Etat de l'Instruction Publique en Russie, published by authority at Warsaw, in 1837, "rédigés d'après des documens officiels."

Of both Sexes.

Nobles	225,000
Clergy	480,000
Merchants	200,000
Shopkeepers and artisans	5,000,000
Servants	3,000,000
Soldiers	1,200,000
Serfs, or peasants	42,000,000
Employés, civil and military	750,000
	52,855,000

By the Government census of 1836, which appeared in the Government newspapers, there were,

	Males.	Females.
Priests of the Greek religion	254,057	249,748
Priests of other religions	19,848	14,724
Nobility, hereditary and by service	550,700	565,145
Merchants, shopkeepers, and artisans	1,547,103	1,628,778

	Males.	Females.
Serfs of the Crown, and Nobility . . .	21,845,121	22,981,467
Military colonies . .	950,698	981,467
Poland . . .	2,077,311	2,110,911
Finland . . .	663,658	708,484
Russian Colonies in America . . .	30,761	30,292
	27,939,257	29,271,016
Females .	29,271,016	
	57,210,273	
Calmucks and Trans-Caucasian provinces, &c.	1,885,994	
Foreigners . .	37,329	
	59,133,596	

The army is not included in this census, nor even alluded to: the Russian Government carefully avoid giving any statistics on this subject, save and except those which they are anxious should be

believed. The numbers of the Calmucks, Kirghizes, and other hordes, can only be guessed at. It will be seen that there is a difference of nearly six millions in the two latter statements, both bearing the stamp of official authority. From all I heard, the last is the most correct document of the kind that has been published in Russia. The Prince G. and others of high rank, who were likely to be able to give the most correct information on the subject, always assured me that there were forty-five millions of serfs. These figures show how very small that portion of the population is who are even partially civilized. The nobility and employés are all that would be thought so, even by a Russian; but let us add to this the clergy and the native merchants, and what is their proportion to the forty-five millions who scarcely know which to think the greatest, God or the Emperor? If a serf is asked, "Does it rain?" he answers, "God and the Emperor know!" With a mere statement of numbers, therefore, the question of *extent* may be dismissed; and having considered the rise and progress of civilization in Russia, I will now examine the *nature* of it, and trace its effects upon

the national character. However brilliant the career of that country may have been since the time of Peter the Great in her foreign policy, she has done but little in the great work of improving the people. Since his day the tide of absolute power has rolled on with little more to modify it than an increasing mass of undigested Ukases. No one can with truth assert that many of these decrees are not framed in a spirit of benevolence; they are so, but any of them can be abrogated in a moment at the Emperor's pleasure.

The name of Alexander will always be venerated as having abolished torture; and that sovereign and the present Emperor have shown the noblest traits of generosity, and a strict sense of justice, on occasions where an injured individual has obtained access to them, and laid his case under the Imperial eye. But how few to whom this can happen, in comparison with the numbers who suffer in the distant parts of the empire, where his most vigilant glance can never penetrate! It is a physical impossibility that one man should see justice done to millions, and it is a moral one that it should be done by those who, in the admi-

nistration of the laws, are notorious for the venality of their conduct. The law is in fact only open to the nobility. A merchant will scarcely dare to sue one of that class for debt, and they, or any one wearing the Imperial uniform, do as they please with the most perfect impunity. On their estates a serf has no hope of redress. Not that there are no written laws for his protection; but they are a dead letter to him: he is, in many cases, ignorant of their very existence; and his master's power over his person prevents him from having recourse to them. The laws, therefore, are only acted upon when a proprietor has justice or generosity enough to observe them. I saw an instance in which a free servant being anxious to obtain redress from her master, brought a policeman to enforce her demand. Before entering the house, however, a short colloquy took place. "Is he a noble?" inquired the man in green; "for, if he is, I can do nothing for you!" but the servant knew he was a foreigner, or she would never have thought of applying to the police.

The wheels within wheels of the executive

are multitudinous, and clogged with corruption. Amongst the great, those who live by it, and they are legion, are said invariably to have foiled the Emperor's plans for effecting a salutary reform in the different departments of the government. The state of the police is such, that no one, unless he is a noble, thinks of applying for assistance. When a person is robbed, he quietly puts up with his loss; for if the thief has any thing in his purse, he is certain to get off; this is one of the reasons why the police masters in Russia make large fortunes upon such small salaries.

A few years ago an officer, in a regiment quartered at Odessa, reaped a fine harvest, by sending out the men of his company every now and then to rob; but it was done in such a clumsy way, that at last it became too flagrant, and the gang was broken up. In the numerous robberies which took place during my stay in that town, (for almost all my acquaintance were plundered in the course of the winter,) the only delinquent detected, that I heard of, was a rogue who had the impudence to filch the Countess W——'s boa in the ante-room of the Exchange. It must not, however,

be supposed that dereliction of duty is peculiar to the lower classes of the employés; the heads of offices often indulge in it on a handsome scale, though their station in life ought to place them above suspicion.

The tariff is so high, that contraband trade is carried on to a great extent on the Finland frontier and in St. Petersburgh, so much so, that a merchant in that city can occasionally afford to undersell those of Odessa. In the customs corruption may be said to originate with the minister himself: he gives permission to his friends, (possibly for a consideration,) to pass large quantities of goods without paying a fraction of duty; in this case the boxes are sealed at the house of the favoured party. The Countess D——, when at Odessa, received a "carte blanche" to pass ten thousand roubles worth of goods, but the fair smuggler, in an absent fit, turned the one into a two; the circumstance was discovered, and the practice has been almost discontinued. Rank, however, if unaccompanied or unsupported by official power, is no great protection at the barrier, where scenes droll enough often take place.

One of the thousand and odd Prince Gargarins once drove up there on his route to Nicolaieff, and being well known to the "douaniers" as a person of spare figure, they were not a little surprised to find him, on that day, of very portly dimensions. Their suspicions were very naturally excited, and being invited into the office, he was desired to declare upon his honour, (a man of no rank would have been half stripped at once,) that he had nothing contraband about him; "What!" said the noble delinquent, "a prince give his word of honour to a 'douanier'—never!" Persisting in this, he was searched, and his aldermanic figure was accounted for by the discovery of large quantities of cloth, cambric, and brocade, rolled round his body. The living mummy was soon unwound, and being reduced to his natural size, was replaced in his carriage with his blood up to 60 of Reaumur.

Some young Poles appeared here one day on a drosky, enveloped in large 'shoobs;' but as it was in the winter season, this did not attract attention, and leaving their vehicles, as usual, for the officers to search, they passed through the gate on foot.

They had, however, scarcely proceeded fifty yards from the sentry, when the string that supported some loaves of sugar, which they had fastened round their waists, gave way, and it fell to the ground; of course, they and their sugar were immediately secured.

It would be highly unjust to say that there exist no exceptions to the venality which so generally characterizes the Russian employé. Amongst these, the following is a remarkable instance, though it proves, at the same time, the tremendous extent to which the custom of offering and receiving bribes has reached. Magnitzky, one of Alexander's ministers, was offered two millions of roubles from the directors of a brandy distillery to defeat some object connected with the revenue; he refused it saying, "No, I am engaged by the Emperor;"—a bright trait in a country where it would have been thought no disgrace to take it. This gentleman was afterwards made governor of a province, where every species of crime and disorder prevailed, and he speedily placed it in a state of calm and security—he is now a decrepid old man in exile at Cherson,

living in a wretched garret with scarcely enough clothes to cover him. His fate is not surprising where honesty has so many rogues to contend with.

However defective the administration of the law, customs, and *public* police, that of the *secret* is far from being so; it is one of the most powerful engines of Russian despotism, and immense sums are expended upon the maintenance of its emissaries in foreign countries. There is scarcely an embassy that has not one of these *gentlemen* attached to it; for, strange as it may appear, they sometimes, nay, not unfrequently, present themselves in that character; more humble individuals, however, are to be found in this capacity. During the war between Russia and Persia, Sir J. Macdonald's butler acted as one, and gave all the information that he could to a person at Teheran, by whom it was regularly forwarded to Paskewitch, through Rosen, who commanded a division. No one who has read the correspondence between Sir J. M'Neil and the English government, can doubt that a number of these spies were employed by Count Simonich and the Rus-

sian government throughout Central Asia, they are so at the present moment. One of them, a Baron Dieskau, alluded to by Capt. Wilbraham, was received into the military service of Russia for his doings in Afghanistan; and Capt. W. adds, "that any one who has been in India, whatever may have been the cause of his quitting the country, is received with open arms." The employés of this fearful inquisition are scattered amongst all classes of the community. They are to be found in the Imperial residence, and the drawing-rooms of the nobility; in the General's tent, and on the quarter-deck; in the barrack-room and below decks; behind the counter, in the cabin of the mujik, and amongst servants of all degrees: the fair sex in the very highest circles are sometimes the paid agents of this most loathsome and disgusting organ of the government.

A person speaking to me of its efficiency, related the following circumstance, which happened to a Swedish ambassador at St. Petersburgh, a few years ago. This gentleman, meeting the Benkendorf of his day in the street, asked him in a casual way, whether he had heard any thing

of a Swede lately arrived in the capital, whom he was anxious to see on business. "I do not know his name," said the ambassador, "but he is of such an age, height, and appearance." The "chef de police" knew him not, but promised to make inquiries. About three weeks after this they met again, "Ah, bon jour," said the "mouchard," "I have got your man; we have had him in prison a fortnight." "My man!" said the astonished diplomate, "What man?" "Why the one you inquired for about three weeks ago; did you not want him arrested?"

Individual liberty may be said to depend on the caprices of the police; it is by no means necessary for them to assign a reason for any arrest that is made; any one, guilty or not, or merely suspected, can be, and often is, taken up and imprisoned, punished or banished without ever knowing why, unless his memory can rake up some thoughtless expression against the government, which might be magnified or exaggerated into a political crime; but very possibly he may not succeed in recollecting even that.

During my stay at Odessa, two French book-

sellers, the only good ones in the place, were visited one evening by the hirelings of this department, and in a winter's night, with the thermometer eighteen degrees below zero of Reaumur, were ordered into a sledge which was ready for them at the door, and, in perfect ignorance of their crime, were posted off, night and day, to Kief, a distance of six hundred versts. On reaching their destination, the Governor, notorious for his dastardly conduct to the Poles, ordered them into the fortress, where they were confined in a damp casemate near the ditch. During the whole of this time they were kept in a wretched state of filth, had nothing but straw to lie upon, and the little money that they had with them when they left Odessa having been taken away on their arrival, they had only the prison fare, black bread and water, to live upon. All communication was cut off, even from their families. Having been in the habit of dealing with one of them, a quiet, inoffensive man, I went several times to his nephew, who carried on the business, to see whether he had heard from him, but no tidings had been received. The first intelligence he had

of his uncle was from the Austrian territory, for after an imprisonment of five months, the affair ended by their being galloped over the frontier by some Cossacks, and turned loose like wild beasts, with rather an unnecessary recommendation never to recross it. Their supposed crime was having sold some Polish national songs.

If necessary, numerous instances of the same nature might be related, but it is superfluous; the fact of the existence of this frightful power is well known. Such arrests and mysterious disappearances are scarcely ever alluded to; animadversions expressed upon them, overheard by one of these "mouchards," (and he might be your own servant, who happened to be handing you an ice at the time,) would, if the authorities chose to take up his information, subject the speaker to the same treatment as Messrs. Sauron and Miéville suffered. Then would come all the horrors of utter helplessness,—the total impossibility of self-defence. The accused has *no rights*. If a man's friends are wealthy, and have the courage, they may perhaps succeed in being of some use to him; bribes may at least propitiate the officials,

and hasten his mock trial, or avert a condemnation without one. But it too often happens that one or the other, or both, are wanting, and the victim of despotism is left to his fate. It is scarcely necessary to say, that this horrible system has a most demoralizing effect, and forms an incubus which destroys all social feeling: every man suspects his neighbour; and under such a curse, friendship is rare, intimacy is dangerous, and a common acquaintance is all that Russians generally are to each other.

CHAPTER XVII.

The old nobility—Their influence not great—The new nobility—A military education—Retrograde feeling—March of intellect in Russia—A modest comparison—The clergy—"All devoted to study"—Method of ensuring sobriety—The Lycées—Charitable institutions—Imperial factories.

In speaking of the nobility, it will be necessary to observe, that a difference exists between those that are of old family, and those who have had their rise in the military system, instituted by Peter the Great. The former, by far the smallest number, form the real aristocracy of the country; they pride themselves upon this circumstance, and are, to a certain extent, exclusive in society. Many of them have retired to Moscow, to avoid a court which, owing to this system, is inundated by "roturiers" from the ranks. Muscovites, therefore, are not in favour at St. Petersburgh. Amongst

them are to be found the only really civilized people in Russia, and their feelings are far less in accordance with the government than those of the men who are daily rising into importance under its protection. As a class, their political influence has departed, for the majority of their ancestors dissipated their fortunes in the splendid and luxurious courts of Elizabeth and Catherine, by an inordinate display of magnificence and hospitality. The facility with which money could be obtained in the latter reign, operated greatly in encouraging their extravagance, and if the establishment of the Lombard Bank was intended as a piece of policy, for the purpose of destroying that influence, it was indeed a master stroke. This bank was opened with a capital of thirty-three millions of roubles, with power to issue bills for one hundred millions, the greater part being lent to noblemen on mortgage.

In this manner the government received deposits of money, bearing interest at four per cent., and lent the capital so acquired on mortgage at eight, three being applied to the liquidation of the sum borrowed, leaving them a clear profit of one per cent.

But in numerous instances neither interest nor principal were paid, and the estates became hopelessly encumbered, or fell altogether into the possession of the crown; of which the proprietors have become mere dependants, for rank, without wealth or official station, is of little or no value in Russia.

The mass, that is the new nobility, have gained by the common routine of army promotion, the same titles and immunities as are possessed by the old, and the state knows no difference between them. These men are certain to stand by the system that has made them, and oppose every question of reform regarding the tenure of land, emancipation of the serfs, or any other modification of their newly-acquired privileges which the others might be willing to advance.

The education given to the young nobility is far from being on a liberal footing; all is done in military style, with military attendance, costume, and discipline strangely worked into its system; the endeavour is to make the lads intelligent, and yet to keep them so habitually mechanical that their acquirements shall always be at the disposal of the government. Their minds are drilled like

their bodies, and though not serfs, they are incapable of appreciating, indeed are totally devoid of, any clear ideas of the value of free institutions, and the relative rights of men—"equal rights to unequal things." They must all go into "the service," civil or military, generally beginning with the latter, and many of them are frequently entrusted with appointments in the former after this auspicious training. If they refuse to serve, they lose their privileges of nobility, not only for themselves, but for their children. Many a youth, of good ability, on leaving the Lycée, or the hands of his private tutor, is therefore forced into a profession for which he has no disposition, and is possibly totally unfit. He may be wealthy, and disposed to use his riches in a beneficial and creditable manner, but he is not allowed to do so in the way most consonant with his feelings, and most suited to his character. He lives neither for himself nor for his country, but for the Emperor and his purposes, and commences his career by entering upon his duties in the Preobrajensky, or some other crack regiment of the guards. Years of service must be gone through before

he can retire: during that period, the wearisome uniformity of palace duty leads to monotony of ideas, and he gradually sinks into the mere soldier of formalities by the force of habit, and the impossibility of exercising, in the trammels of his profession, the mental powers that he may have valued and cultivated in his youth. At the expiration of the term of service, the energy of his mind, unable to contend against circumstances, has evaporated; every frank and generous feeling is quenched by its routine, or, if not quenched, suppressed, and the man is moulded to the pattern of the government. The many rest apathetically under this, a few secretly cherishing the feelings and hopes of ameliorating, politically or otherwise, the condition of their country, become objects of suspicion. Such is the nature of this despotic government, that to dissent is to rebel, and to rebel—death: the mitigated punishment, exile to Siberia, or service *in the ranks* of the army of the Caucasus. Some, however, contemplate revolution and change merely from motives of ambition, and personal aggrandizement. They have no plan for the improve-

ment of their countrymen, or their emancipation; their only object is to get power into their own hands.

It might be supposed that the present Emperor would have extended the scheme laid down by his predecessor, and encourage the intercourse of the nobility with other nations; but his policy has been of a contrary tendency, for, during his reign, there has been great difficulty in obtaining permission to travel.* In the days of Catherine, a Russian noble required neither passport nor permission for such a purpose; now he cannot leave the country without both: he must, unless he has great influence, give a special reason. If the benefit of his health, or that of any member of his family, is assigned, the answer is, "We have the climate of Italy in the Crimea"—if the education of his children, "We have the universities of Moscow, Kharkoff, and Kief!" where they will learn just as much as the state chooses they shall

* By an Ukase of September 1, 1810, a tax has been laid on all passports for Russians travelling to foreign countries! and by another of this year, all Russian subjects married to foreigners are obliged to return home—the nobles within five, and the burghers within three years.

know, or nothing at all. The Emperor can see plainly enough that liberal education is the forerunner of the downfall of absolute power, but instead of cherishing enlarged views, and meeting the advance of such principles by just and gradual concessions, and the modification of that power, he endeavours to stifle every feeling of the kind, and shrinks from grappling with its progress.

The following extract is taken from Krusenstern's "Précis du Système des Progrès et de l'Etat de l'Instruction Publique en Russie; rédigés d'après des documens officiels," before referred to. The author's statement was not likely to be very unfavourable, but his panegyrics must be as flattering as the vanity of his employers could expect.

"The number of scholars who received education in the schools of Public Instruction were,

in 1836 . . .	85,707
Military Schools . .	179,981
Ecclesiastical ditto . .	67,024
Divers others . .	127,864
	460,576

Amongst these, 44,090 received a superior education. In the schools of Public Instruction there are of this class . . 10,000

Military Schools .	10,000
Eccclesiastical ditto . .	14,590
Divers others . . .	9,500
	44,090

The 416,486 are limited to the acquirement "des connaissances usuelles ou pratiques ou bien ne reçoivent qu'une instruction élémentaire." "It must not be supposed," says Mr. K., "that this forms the only educated portion of the population. Let us look at other classes, commencing with the clergy, who may, including the two sexes, be calculated at 480,000, *all devoted to study*. Their children amount to—

	Children.	Population.	Are educated.
	120,000	480,000	*i. e.* 1 in 4
Nobility . .	245,000	225,000	„ 1 „ 5
Employés .	107,000	750,000	„ 1 „ 7
Merchants .	27,000	200,000	„ 1 „ 7

Shopkeepers & Artizans	250,000	5,000,000	*i. e.* 1	in	20
Servants	200,000	3,000,000	„ 1	„	15
Soldiers	169,000	1,200,000	„ 1	„	7
Serfs	140,000	42,000,000	„ 1	„	300
	1,058,000	52,855,000			

"The number of children going to school, of the nobility, are as one to five, the same as in the United States. The fifth class on the list includes the small shopkeepers, artisans, and other inhabitants of cities and towns, not belonging either to the class of clergy, nobility, or merchants. In the army are included men, women, and children, according to the statement of Mr. Ziabloffsky. The peasants are calculated at one in three hundred. In White Russia, however, in Volhynia and Podolia, where the Polish system endeavoured to put down the Russian language, that of the people, only one in five hundred can read. Deducting from these numbers the children in schools of all kinds, it will be seen that 597,424 children

enjoy the benefits of instruction and education under the paternal roof. These calculations are made upon 48,000,000, the population of European Russia, and give on the entire mass, the proportion of the numbers educated of one in forty-eight, placing her in a distinguished position amongst the nations of Europe, and far above the inhabitants of many other countries considered more civilized than her."

The self-complacency of these remarks is quite in character with the arrogance usually displayed in productions emanating from the Imperial printing press. "*The education the same as in the United States!!*" "*In White Russia, Volhynia, and Podolia, where the Polish system endeavoured to put down the Russian language,* THAT OF THE PEOPLE *only one in five hundred can read.*" What effrontery! The story course Russia is pursuing towards Poland at the present moment. "*Placing her in a distinguished position amongst the nations of Europe, and far above the inhabitants of many other countries considered more civilized than her.*" This is Russian assurance with a vengeance! Amongst these children who receive a superior edu-

cation, there appears to be an equal number in the military schools, and those of public instruction. These again are exceeded by those in the ecclesiastical, who number 14,590, making a difference of 4,590 scholars. Whatever the number of the clergy may be, Mr. Krusenstern's assertion that they are all devoted to study, is utterly false. His work is one of the government microscopes, and not the only one. If there is any truth in this calculation, which proves that the priesthood form the largest portion of those who receive a superior education, the intellectual position that Russia holds amongst the nations either of Europe or America is distinguished indeed!! The Russians themselves allow that their clergy are deplorably ignorant; and, in many cases, coarse and vicious: this is pretty well borne out by the fact that they are never admitted into society, unless their presence is required at some religious ceremony or festival. They make the serf their boon companion, and hundreds of them are not a grade above him in their general habits. The explanation of their being "all devoted to study" is, that they can read, an acquirement which scarcely a man amongst

their flocks possesses. The anecdote related to Mr. Venables by a Russian gentleman, will give a good idea of the state of degradation to which they reduce themselves, and the manner in which their "*failings*," as Mr. Sabouroff calls them, are looked upon. "Passing one day," says that gentleman, "near a large group of peasants, who were assembled in the middle of a village, I asked them what was going forward. 'We are only putting the father (as they call the priest) into a cellar.' 'In a cellar,' I replied, 'what are you doing that for?' 'Oh,' said they, 'he is a sad drunkard; and has been in a state of intoxication all the week: so we always take care every Saturday to put him in a safe place, that he may be able to officiate at the church next day, and on Monday he is at liberty to begin drinking again.'" "I could not help applauding," says Mr. S., "this very sensible arrangement, which was related to me with all the gravity in the world." Such conduct in the eyes of a Russian gentleman is only a *failing!*

Though there is instruction for the higher classes, the course of reading in the Lycées is extremely "bornée." The histories of England

and other countries, are compressed into meagre abbreviations, in which all those points that exhibit, and might excite, liberality of feeling, are carefully omitted. The forty-five millions of serfs may be said to be without any education whatsoever. The government, though they decline to institute any system of instruction for the multitude, do not refuse their assistance in supporting with large sums of money establishments of a very questionable utility: these are on a scale of magnificence unequalled in any other country.

The Foundling Hospital at Moscow, though vaunted as a charitable institution, is but an illegitimate means of increasing the power of the government; for, by far the greatest number of individuals brought up in it, those who are never claimed, remain at its disposal, and become its tools. Considering the vitiated state of their social system, they could do very well without this establishment; the enormous sums of money thus expended might be much more beneficially employed, if they seriously intended to improve that system. But to be physically, not morally great, is their object; and to attain that end, the government

cares not what principles, whether of liberty, justice, or morality, are sacrificed to it. But, if this hospital were a charity, is that virtue general, and are charitable institutions general, even on a moderate scale? In one for the *sick*, at Odessa, which has been styled magnificent by some travellers, (externally it is), the unfortunate inmates are obliged to pay eleven roubles a-month, during their stay.

The Imperial factories of Alexandrefsky of cotton and playing cards, which contribute largely to the support of the Foundling Hospital of St. Petersburgh, are also on a most Imperial scale. These, and other institutions there, arrest the attention of the passing traveller, and naturally excite his admiration; but he will find that whatever the government and the nobility may do in the two capitals, it is the alpha and omega of their philanthropy.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Russian society—An absent lady—A dinner party—Turning out—Toilette of the ladies—At home and abroad—"Le peau de l'ours"—The Princess G.—The Prince G.—Three graces—Their proprietor.

ST. PETERSBURGH is laid out on a scale of grandeur, and with a regularity of design, unequalled in any other capital; palaces, squares, quays, barracks, churches, monasteries, theatres, and other public buildings, are all grand and gorgeous, the streets are long and spacious, and the shops filled with every article of luxury that can contribute to the enjoyment of life. The nobility of both sexes, though deficient in the solid branches of education, are highly accomplished in music, dancing, and modern languages. They have generally adopted French manners, and the *lighter* parts of French literature.

My first introduction to Russian society was at a dinner-party, at the Countess T——'s. This lady, and her cousin, the Princess M——, are the lineal descendants of the last king of Georgia, who, rather than abdicate his rights, was thrown into a dungeon by command of Catherine, in which he died, after an imprisonment of nineteen years. Our hostess's history was singular: there was a mysterious story of some early attachment and disappointment; but it was told in so many different ways, that the hearer might believe as little as he liked, or nothing; or as much as he chose to indulge his own romance with, if he had any. At any rate, it was generally known that up to the time of her marriage, two years before, she had passed her life in a convent. In her youth, she must have been surpassingly beautiful; and, having all the elegance and softness of the race from which she was descended, looked the Georgian Princess to perfection. The habits of her secluded life were still to be observed; she seemed to live upon her own reflections, and her manner in society was peculiarly absent. Of this an amusing instance occurred at a "soirée" that the

Count had, with some difficulty, prevailed upon her to give. A mutilated "chargé d'affaires," and a famous violinist, were of the party; both were strangers to the Countess. In the course of the evening, her husband, who was passionately fond of music, requested her to go to the latter, and endeavour to induce him to play. The poor lady with great reluctance left her seat, with the intention of propitiating the Orpheus of the evening, but, unfortunately, went up to, and addressed the diplomate, and, in her usual graceful manner, said, "Sir, I understand you are an accomplished performer on the violin; will you favour us with something?" "Ah, Madame la Comtesse," replied the astonished "employé," "volontiers, mais malheureusement je n'ai qu'un bras." Her amiable and highly gifted relative I have already spoken of in my Crimean tour.

We were invited for four o'clock, the usual hour, and, on our arrival, found the party already assembled in the drawing-room; the ladies were in morning dress. A tray was shortly after brought in, with caviare, herring, and other et ceteras, a perfect epitome of an Italian warehouse; this was

followed by another, with "votka," *rum*, and liqueurs; the ladies, as well as the gentlemen, partook slightly of both. Dinner was then announced, and on entering the dining-room, we found only the dessert on the table; there was nothing but the glass and plate on the sideboard. The fresh fruit and flowers had a much more pleasing effect than roast joints, fricandeaux, and curry. A slice of black bread, a white roll, and a decanter of vin ordinaire were placed for each guest. The dinner was composed of the best French and English dishes, which were handed round in rotation, with wines at intervals, by free servants, out of livery, well dressed and well trained. This, however, is the case only in the best houses; the generality are serfs, equipped in liveries made in the house by their fellow slaves. These wait without either glove or napkin; and as the pump in the yard is their jug, and the trough under it their only washhand-basin, their hands are not agreeable objects to the eye, and certainly not in keeping with the unnecessary quantity of plate and glass which is frequently displayed, or the taper and jewelled fingers of the ladies of the

party. Quass was to be had if asked for, but this is avoided in company, as beer is amongst some of the "soi-disant" select in England. I have, however, seen many exceptions to this in Russia; and sometimes sat next to a Countess, who regularly emptied a decanter of this execrable beverage. After dinner it was exceedingly disagreeable—to make use of a mild term—to see every one rinsing his mouth heartily, and expectorating copiously into his finger glass. This operation over, the conversation suddenly ceased, apparently by mutual consent; the company rose, crossed themselves, and having bowed to the noble hostess and to each other, all round the room, returned to the salon in the same order as they left it. Coffee was then brought in, and in about half an hour, almost every one had retired. While musing on this circumstance, and admiring the ingenuity with which the eight decorations of an acquaintance were arranged, for they were all suspended from a small gilt sword, similar to those sold in London under the denomination of "Prince Albert's toothpicks," he came up to me, and whispered in my ear, "Capitaine, il est temps de

partir." "Where to?" said I. "Home," replied my friend. "Home, why I did not order the carriage till ten!" "Eh, mon cher, c'est malheureux, but such is our custom, and it will be thought very odd if you remain." In less than a quarter of an hour after this, I found my wife and self trudging home on foot, our evening costume attracting no little attention from the promenaders on the boulevard; and we regained our hotel, much amused at being, according to our habits, civilly turned out of doors. This was a good specimen of a Russian dinner, where, with the exception of the misuse of the finger-glasses, there was nothing to offend a person of the most fastidious taste. In Russia however, polished manners, nay, even the decencies of life, are often forgotten in the violence of temper fostered by the possession of irresponsible power; and scenes sometimes occur which would not be met with at the tables or in the society of any other European country. At a large dinner-party at which a friend of mine was present, one of the servants in handing a wine-glass, had the misfortune to let it fall. The master of the house, a General,

totally oblivious of the presence of ladies, rose from his chair, and with one blow laid the luckless offender, his serf, bleeding on the ground; a few excuses followed, as readily accepted as they were made, and the dinner proceeded as if nothing had taken place. Smoking is allowed in the most fashionable houses, the custom being somewhat qualified by the use of "cigaritos;" this habit even the ladies sometimes indulge in, and I was not a little astonished to see that spitting-boxes formed part of the furniture of the drawing-rooms in the Imperial villa at Moscow.

The dress of the ladies is extremely rich and costly, and, generally speaking, in excellent taste. The attention which the Empress bestows on this important subject excites great rivalry. Her Imperial Majesty notices the toilette of those of her court to such an extent, that she frequently makes very pointed, and sometimes not very courteous allusions. If a lady presents herself at the palace a second time in the same gown, it seldom escapes her observation, and she is said to have remarked more than once, 'Ah, Madame la Comtesse, c'est une ancienne connaissance." Or if the jewels

have been reset, "Ah, Madame la Princesse, votre parure a été remontée." Such remarks do not fail to have their effect, not only upon those to whom they are addressed, but upon the rest of the company, who are equally open to them, and this, added to their natural inclination for show and extravagance, makes them lavish to excess. It is not an unusual thing to see ladies of a morning, when they are not expecting company, dressed as if for a wedding breakfast.

Those who have fallen in with Russians on their travels, must have observed their very attractive manners, and powers of pleasing. They frequently express to the inhabitants of other countries their admiration of liberal institutions, and deplore the sad necessity of retaining their serfs in a state of slavery. But a Russian is always a *diplomate;* such philanthropy is often false, and assumed only for effect: on their return to Russia they take up again all the habits and feelings they had masked for a time, and are as despotic as ever. It is only fair to suppose that this difference of conduct and opinions at home and abroad is in some instances occasioned by the in-

convenience, suspicion and danger which would result from any expressions or action of a liberal character on their return; therefore the good that might result from travel is much neutralized, and inevitably works very slowly for the national benefit, though no doubt some arises from their seeing a world so different in every point of view from their own. On the habits of many of them who have seen the best society in England and other parts of the continent, example has had very little effect, and the strangest inconsistencies may be noticed.

There is truth as well as piquancy in the remark made, I think in Madame Junot's Memoirs, "qu'il faut toujours attendre dans un connaissance Russe de voir un jour le peau de l'ours." As an instance in point, I recollect seeing a Russian at St. Petersburgh who had gone the round of all the European courts, had been introduced at Almacks, was intimate with the Duke of ——, Lady C., and many other persons of high rank and fashion amongst the English nobility, come into a drawing-room, and bowing most gracefully to the lady of the house, an Englishwoman, walk up to a pier-glass in the room, coolly take out a

pocket-comb and arrange his hair. Having performed the operation to his satisfaction, he did not forget, as he replaced his carved tortoise-shell in his pocket, to take out the loose hairs and throw them on the floor.. Strange and capricious as such violations of good manners may be, they are trifles compared with the profligacy which, with honourable exceptions, generally pervades society. The eye of the Emperor operates to check this to a considerable extent in the capital; but out of the sphere of his observation, there is no restraint, there is no public opinion to dread, and they indulge their vicious propensities in a manner which would in any other country put them out of the pale of society.

As I have before remarked, I almost witnessed on my way to the Crimea, the death of the Princess G., who was at that time in the last stage of consumption. Her beauty was peculiar, and, if any thing, heightened by this fatal and insidious malady. Though suffering dreadfully from a cough which might be heard in every part of the vessel, she gave no sign of irritability and made no complaint, and her smile betrayed a kind and

affectionate heart. Her stay in the Crimea was but short, for, feeling that her end was fast approaching, she requested to be taken back to Odessa. On seeing her children she rallied; but after an ineffectual and painful struggle, sunk under her disease. Two months had not elapsed when I met her husband walking down the most public street in the town in open day with one of the lowest prostitutes of the place. But this was not all; soon after he hired a house which had been forfeited to the government by Prince V. for the part he took in the conspiracy of 1825, and set up a kind of guinguette in the garden. Here Russian swings, retired summer-houses, and a temporary ball room were erected. A restaurateur was also engaged, and the prince's own band, composed of his serfs, attended in the evening. The price of admission was five roubles. At this garden, the prostitutes of the town, headed by another nobleman's mistress and his own, held their saturnalia; the prince acted as master of the ceremonies, and busied himself in visiting the different tables and seeing that the counter was properly attended to.

This *gentleman* was the brother of the military governor of the town. And was he cut by any of his own class? Not at all. Did they even endeavour to keep aloof from him? No such thing; the question was, whether it was a good speculation and likely to answer. I mention the anecdote to show the state of public opinion of a country, the education of which "places it in a distinguished position amongst the nations of Europe, and far above the inhabitants of others considered more civilized than her."*

The manner in which the serfs are sometimes treated is perfectly unmanly; they are looked upon as beings made not only for the use, but to submit to all the caprices of their owners. A nobleman, whose house joined mine, accosted me one morning with "Bon jour, mon capitaine, I hope you were not disturbed last night." I replied, that I had been so, by some persons screaming and crying. "Ah, were you?" said my acquaintance; "the fact was, my three washerwomen came home last night dead drunk. 'Conçevez, mon cher, *trois femmes* ivres mortes!' Had they been men it

* See page 231.

would have been bad enough—but women! I could not stand it, so I ordered them into the stable to be flogged." And flogged they were by the men their fellow-serfs, and the mystery of the midnight disturbance was fully explained, though not to my satisfaction. This man had received a Parisian education, was rich, and a general officer; he had fought at Leipsic, and was covered with orders. If all this, with agreeable manners, a knowledge of mathematics, and a smattering of the sciences generally, be considered a proof of being civilized, he was so. But though an exception to his class in the advantages he had enjoyed of a superior education, he showed the "peau de l'ours" as often as any Russian who had never left the country. In his library, which contained only a few novels, and the "Paroles d'un Croyant," he was a democrat and advanced the most ultra-liberal opinions; in his house, a tyrant; in public, a despot; and he was about as near being civilized as Peter the Great.

CHAPTER XIX.

Russian hospitality—Reception of a field-marshal—Of a centurion—A Russian noble—His extravaganzas—A mesmerizer—A good Samaritan—Treatment of the Poles—Superstition of the Russian nobility—A new cure for tetanus—Miraculous medal—Litany.

MANY of the statements made with regard to Russian hospitality have been much exaggerated. The generality of the higher classes are not hospitable in the real sense of the word; they show attention to strangers, more with a view to their own amusement, or to show off their own importance by patronizing them, than from any kind feeling. If a foreigner is a person of rank, it will be so fashionable to fête him, that he will hardly know which way to turn his steps; the government also often interferes, every thing is ordered to be done which can, in any way, contribute to his pleasure or comfort, and dust is thus thrown in his eyes whenever they do not

want him to see too much. When Marmont visited Russia, he was met by a guard of honour at the frontier, aides-de-camp were ordered to attend him, and he entered the country like a crowned head. His hotel bills were paid, steamboats and carriages were placed at his disposal, and in his work he naturally gave a flattering description of his entertainers. Several of our nobility, except in having their bills paid, have met with similar attention, and every one travelling with strong recommendations to persons of high rank and official power, and therefore considered by them as worth it, from motives of policy, public or private, are treated with every consideration.

Nothing can exceed the courtesy shown by the Emperor to the foreign officers who attend the reviews. But in the provinces this feeling is far from being manifested towards them, merely because they are military men.

Shortly after my arrival at Odessa, a large public dinner was given in honour of the marriage of the Grand Duchess Marie. I mentioned to a Russian acquaintance that I intended going, when

he told me, that in compliment to the occasion, I ought to appear in uniform; I did so, but though the military governor, Count T., ten general officers, and a numerous staff, were present, I found that, neither from motives of ordinary civility to a stranger, nor any "esprit de corps," as military men, did they show me any more courtesy than if I had been lost amongst the crowd in plain clothes: on the contrary, I was left to find a place for myself at a side table; this was the more surprising, as I was known to the Count, who, on entering the room, had condescended to stop as he passed to ask me for the English receipt for making ginger beer!!! Such incidents come in amusing contrast with the descriptions I had received from my Russian friends in Italy of the urbanity and hospitality of their countrymen towards foreigners, and their partiality for the English.

A letter of introduction, as in any other country, will procure the stranger a dinner, and, as there are no inns in the steppe, a bed also, if he has an invitation to any house on the track; but it is quite a mistake to suppose that Russian hospi-

tality exceeds that of any other nation, or that it proceeds from the same motives. A *lion* will always find keepers; but if the traveller be an unpretending individual, he will not only be unnoticed, but, from the want of protection, be subject to frequent annoyances, in the public offices more particularly. The acquaintance, therefore, of some person holding a high official station is absolutely necessary to ensure it, for it is certain to be required in a few months', perhaps even a few weeks' residence.

Hospitality, so called, is exercised according to the éclat which it produces. General L. N. is a striking example of this fact, and, from the contradictory points in his character, is by no means a singular specimen of a Russian noble. Though immensely rich, he sees no one at his table, and will go the round of all the tailors in the town to cheapen a waistcoat; but when the whim takes him his conduct is marked by unbounded prodigality. A company of French players came to Odessa under the management of an "ancienne amie" of the General's; the whole corps were entertained during their fortnight's quarantine at

his expense; a band serenaded them every evening, and his carriages were sent to the Lazaret to convey them to their hotel at the expiration of their imprisonment. This freak could not have cost him less than twenty thousand roubles. His speculations, for they must gamble in some way or other, are numerous, and wholly devoid of common sense; one day he buys a schooner of thirty tons, fir built, and a most wretched craft; he is then a merchant, and has a ship, "il est dans le commerce." A few months after, he has some excellent scheme for exporting hareskins, or rags; then comes a sugar refinery, or a factory for sterine candles or cloth. He has racers that never win, wears earrings, and keeps a mesmerizer, who invariably attends the General when he is bilious. This *loadstone* was once a non-commissioned officer in the Piedmontese army, but finding it safer and more profitable to kill by *magnetism* than the sword, he has taken to this profession, and between his patron and his aunt, picks up a good income. The lady was, in early life, the mistress of Alexander, and had great personal attractions; she is now fat and a devotee.

When either the bodies or minds of these two illustrious members of the house of Romanoff are disordered, the doctor is placed in a mesmeric trance by a General B., a friend of the family, and the medicines which he prescribes when in this state are taken with the greatest faith in their efficacy.

General N.'s last speculation was to advance money to the Poles, at enormous interest, upon their harvests. As might be expected, this scheme, like the rest, failed; for a Pole, even in distress, would much rather let his corn rot, than have sold it to him—a Russian usurer. This is not extraordinary, for independently of all the exasperation of political feeling, the Russians privately treat their fallen enemies with every species of contumely and indignity, and the acerbity displayed towards them is scarcely credible.

I was walking one day with a Russian officer of high rank, when a man came up to us and asked for charity; he was evidently in a most destitute state, his clothes tattered, and his countenance wretchedly attenuated. My companion, in a melting mood, put his hand into his pocket, and

drawing forth a five copeck piece, (two pence,) was in the act of extending it towards him, when the man, grateful for the intended gift, and warmed into a momentary forgetfulness that he was speaking to a Russian, expressed his thanks in his own language—Polish. "Ah! you are a Pole, are you?" said the General, and returning the silver to his pocket, he benevolently added, "go—starve!"

Such is the fear that some Polish parents have of the consequences that may befall their children in after life from knowing *their own language*, that they send them to Odessa and other distant towns, and place them in families where there is no chance of their hearing it.*

* Though I could enumerate a variety of anecdotes of the diabolical treatment pursued against them by their conquerors, yet the one related by Lord D. Stuart, at the meeting in support of the Polish Literary Association, in 1841, is so pre-eminently atrocious, that I will substitute it for one or two others I had purposed mentioning:—

"Lord D. C. Stuart, in returning thanks for himself and his colleagues, said it might have been supposed that there was now less occasion for exertion, and that time had relaxed the oppression of the Emperor of Russia; but his tyrannical system every year produced fresh misery to the Poles. One would

The conduct of Russia towards Poland is a subject which might be enlarged upon, but the fact of her exercising a most horrid system of oppression is so universally admitted, that I do not feel it necessary to enter upon it, and shall proceed to notice Russian toleration in matters of religion. This is a theme which is descanted upon with no little complacency in that country, when, in truth, it is little more than what common policy dictates towards conquered provinces, to leave them in the enjoyment of their own mode

suppose that in ten years, which had elapsed since the last revolution, the Emperor's wrath might have been assuaged. Last year he transplanted the peasants from the estates of Prince Czartoryski, and others in Podolia, into the interior of Russia, and supplied their places with Russians. Another case of inconceivable cruelty had recently been perpetrated. It was that of a Polish lady, the wife of Count Grocholwski, a refugee, who had found shelter in Switzerland, leaving his wife and daughter behind him, the former being pregnant at the time. This lady obtained leave to visit her husband, taking with her their son, born after his father's exile. When she was obliged to return to Poland, the child persuaded her to leave him with his father. On her arrival at Warsaw, Prince Paskewitch sent for her, and told her that in leaving the boy she had committed a heinous crime. Her property was confiscated, and she was banished forthwith to Siberia.

of religious worship: in Russia Proper, toleration is of a very qualified kind.

If a Russian female marries a foreigner, no matter what his religion may be, his children must be brought up in the Greek faith. By a late Ukase, it is forbidden to attempt conversion to any but the Greek religion. In consequence of this, the labours of the German Missionaries on the frontiers of Circassia have been cut short, and the Scotch colony, sent there by the Church Missionary Society, has been completely broken

Nor was that all. As a further punishment, her innocent daughter was condemned to be sent to a military colony—that is, she was condemned to be married to a common soldier, whom she had never seen. The nobles of Podolia, compassionating the fate of this innocent young lady, subscribed a sum, amounting to 5,000*l.*, for the purpose of saving her from being married to a common Russian soldier, and to place her in circumstances to be married to an officer. God knew, it was even then hard enough to compel her to marry a man she never saw, if he was the first prince on the earth. But the Emperor, on being petitioned by these nobles of Podolia, took the money indeed, but refused to allow the girl to marry any other but a private soldier. He said he would direct 500*l.* of the money subscribed to be applied in some way to her use, but the remaining 4,500*l.* was applied to the hospitals of St. Petersburgh."

up. Is this toleration? Their conduct to the Catholics in Poland has been most infamous; they have suppressed all the monasteries, though many of the inmates were, perhaps, the most useful people in the thinly populated parts of that country, being regularly educated as surgeons, and benevolently using their information for the benefit of the poor for miles round them.

The government has not only colonized Poland with Russians, but is endeavouring to force the Greek religion and their own language upon the inhabitants which remain. No superstition is like that of Russia; it is not confined to the ignorant mujik, but is constantly to be found in the highest ranks. The late Countess B. never allowed any of her children to commence a journey on a Monday or a Friday; and pieces of black ribbon which had been blessed by the Patriarch, she presented with great ceremony to her friends as a sovereign remedy for a sore throat. Many persons in the same rank of life believe in the efficacy of charms which they hang round their children's necks to keep off convulsions. For a present of a knife and fork or a pair of

scissors, the donor expects a piece of money, no matter how small, in return. My friend B., riding in a carriage one day with a lady of his acquaintance, observed her pulling all the pins out of her dress, and on his expressing his surprise at the circumstance, she replied that a Papa had passed. Sportsmen also dislike meeting them, as it is a sign of bad luck. If they were like Father Maguire, there might be some reason in this, for his "rivirince" leaves very little game behind him. A picture of the Virgin, handsomely framed, or rather in a kind of shrine, is placed in a corner and close to the ceiling of every drawing-room, but invariably in such a position that all who come into the apartment may see it; and no visitor thinks of entering into conversation before he has bowed to it, and crossed himself. If a foreigner remarks upon this custom, he is frequently told by the master of the house, that the picture is not there for the use of himself and his family, but for the *servants*.

This picture worship is one of the striking features in the Greek church. An elderly lady of my acquaintance, whose life had been more than

gay, had a handsome cabinet in her boudoir full of these shrines and saints. Before or after a journey, and on fête days, her household gods were regularly taken out one by one, and prayed and bowed to with the same fervour and devotion as any mujik would exhibit in the cathedral of the assumption at the Kremlin.

The nobility conform most strictly to every ordinance and ceremony of their church. Amongst these, is the attendance of a confessor, whose zeal and sincerity are frequently on a par with those of his penitent. "When a priest comes to my house to shrive me, which he does once a-year," said one of these gentlemen to me, "we understand each other; 'il sait bien que j'ai des faiblesses, mais c'est un homme raisonable,' and with a twenty-five rouble note we part the very best friends."

During my stay at Odessa, one of the governors of the Lycée was attacked by tetanus in its most frightful form. No one thought it possible that he could survive; but after every medical man in the town had given him over, he recovered under the decided and judicious treatment of Dr. Tovey, an Englishman, who administered opium and

æther in very large quantities. Several of the Russian nobility, however, gave the credit of the cure to the young Prince G., who hung a consecrated medal, possessed of miraculous power, round his neck, and read over him the following litany, which I have with some difficulty translated:—

"O Mary, who conceived without sin, and destined from all eternity to become the beloved daughter of the Celestial Father, the Mother of his adorable Son, the wife of the Holy Ghost, and the redemption of human nature, what ecstasy I experience in exalting you as the most beautiful, most noble, most sublime, most pure, and most holy of all creatures! O Mary, what pleasure and delight I feel in throwing myself at your feet, praying to you, calling you my mother, confiding to you my troubles, and pouring into your heart all the secrets of mine! I am drawn towards you by the powerful charm of that confidence, that filial tenderness that a beloved child feels for its mother, who, depending on a favourable reception, has recourse, without hesitation, to her who is always ready to listen, to advise, to assist, and to forgive. 'Tis thus, my good Mother, that I take

refuge in your maternal heart, and press mine to yours."

PRAYER.

In honour of the immaculate conception of the Virgin Mary.

"You have indeed been immaculate in your conception, pray for us God the Father, of whom you brought into the world the son Jesus, conceived by the Holy Ghost in your chaste bosom.

Blessed be the immaculate conception of the Virgin Mary."

LITANY.

"Lord, havè pity upon us.
Jesus Christ, „
Lord, listen to us.
Jesus Christ, „
Celestial Father, who is God, have pity upon us.
Son, Redeemer of the world, have, &c.
Holy Ghost, „
Holy Trinity, which is one only God, „
O Mary, without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you.

Object of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, pray for us who have recourse to you.

All beautiful, and without spot, pray, &c.

Sanctuary of incarnate wisdom, ,,

Built by his hands, and ornamented with seven columns, ,,

Model of the life of faith, ,,

Mother of sweetest hope, ,,

Mother of beautiful love, ,,

Virgin detached from all, ,,

Seat of Christian prudence, ,,

Mirror of perfect justice, ,,

Tower of true strength, ,,

Aurora, without clouds, of our most beautiful days, ,,

New Eve promised to our fathers to crush the head of the ancient serpent, ,,

Faith of Israel, of which the name is full of sweetness and blessing, ,,

The most perfect of pure creatures, ,,

Lily of brilliant whiteness in the middle of thorns, ,,

True candlestick of admirable gold, ornamented with the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, ditto.

Mother, of Jesus, always Virgin, pray for us who have recourse to you.

Glory of the church, pray, &c.

Honour of Christians, ,,

Typified by the famous and illustrious of the ancient law, ,,

Announced by the prophets, ,,

Blessed above all women, ,,

Queen of all angels and all men, ,,

Terror of demons, ,,

Advocate of sinners, ,,

Prop of the feeble, ,,

Treasure of the perfect, of whom the heart is so similar to that of Jesus, ,,

Depositary of graces, which you dispense with so bountiful a hand to all, ,,

Consolation of the afflicted and the dying, ,,

Special protectress of all who invoke you, ,,

Mother most tender to all your children, ,,

Transfixed by the sword of grief at the foot of the Cross, ,,

Gate of the residence of glory and eternal delights, ,,

Draw your children by the odour of your virtues, and conduct them to heaven, ,,

Lamb of God which effaces the sins of the world, forgive us, Lord.

„ hear us favourably.

„ have pity upon us.

Lord Jesus Christ, hear us favourably.

O Virgin Mary, who art immaculate in your conception, „

Pray for us, God the Father, of whom you brought into the world the son Jesus, conceived in your virgin breast by the operation of the Holy Spirit.

CHAPTER XX.

Russian nobility—Female education—Family attachments—Domestic character—Colonization—Foreigners—Russian workmen—Servants—Their habits—Treatment.

A BELIEF in the miraculous efficacy of this medal and litany might naturally be expected amongst the serfs; but to find such absurd credulity common with the *educated* and *civilized* nobility, who insist upon being considered on a par with that of the rest of Europe, is sufficiently astonishing. In the consideration of domestic life amongst the upper classes, what do we discover to be the conduct of these noble gentlemen and elegant ladies, who certainly form a brilliant "société de salon?" Rarely, indeed, do they value or practise domestic habits; and for this the women, in general, are

considerably to blame. Their intellectual powers, which are certainly greater than those of the men, are cultivated only to attract admiration in public, not to allure them to the homes they are too willing to neglect. They take no interest in family affairs, and their vanity withers the virtues without which civilization degenerates into elegant corruption. Given up to a life of gaiety, they often entrust their children entirely to English or Swiss servants, or else they are brought up in a very injudicious manner by themselves: When the boys are old enough, they are put into the hands of a tutor, sometimes an Englishman; the celebrated Pinkerton held this situation in a Russian family of distinction, and his amiable and highly intellectual qualities left lasting effects. I had the pleasure of being personally known to several members of it, who were residing at Moscow when I was there. The head of this family, the Princess M——, is a woman of great kindness of heart, strength of mind, and liberality of feeling, and, at the same time, of the most engaging manners; her reading is extensive, and far beyond that of her countrymen or women. She might,

without flattery, be called the Hannah More of Russia; and if Russia is to be civilized, it will be by females, not equal, but similar, to the old Princess M——, though few, indeed, like her are to be met with in any country. To return from this exception to the mass: I have said that some of the boys, in the best families, are placed under tutors, others are sent to the Lycées, Military schools, &c. The girls are brought up by governesses, or in the "Pensions des Demoiselles Nobles." Under the eye of the late benevolent and intelligent Empress Mother these establishments were conducted in the best manner possible. She was an ornament to her sex and exalted station, and did not fail to see that her plans were acted upon; but it is more than doubtful whether her anticipations, with regard to their beneficial effects, have been realized. In these Pensions, the girls are confined in the same manner as if they were in a convent, and seldom or never see their relations. They leave these schools, fully prepared to *shine* in society; and there they very soon learn that little else is expected from them. Marriages, mostly "de convenance," are contracted at a very

early age; and as the girls are generally sent from home very young, a great deal of the tenderness of feeling that might have been cherished under the care of a mother is lost; I say *might*, but are they ever taught, either at home or at school, that the quiet and unostentatious duties of domestic life are those by which they are to win the respect of the other sex? Is it impressed upon them that the smaller their sphere of action, the purer and brighter will their influence and character be? From what may generally be observed, it is justifiable, and not uncharitable to conclude, very seldom. As to finding out these duties by example, it is scarcely too much to say it is hopeless. So prevalent is light, nay, even licentious conduct, that few women possessing these virtues present themselves to observation; and the finest and most generous natures are soon corrupted by contact with, and the pernicious influence of the many. The men are so much from home on military duty, that their family attachments are naturally weakened, and their admiration of women is merely that of the moment; they do not appreciate, nor become refined by

their society. In the short intervals which the government will allow either a husband or son to be at home, he finds, even if he were disposed to enjoy it, very little there to induce him to forego the everlasting balls, theatricals, and the excitement of the gaming table, so eagerly sought after in this country; that have been, when off duty, his only resource, and to which, from habit, he has become entirely devoted. Smoking, and occasionally a book, vary the routine of his mechanical, servile, and trifling existence; his literary taste is of the same exalted character; for he seldom soars above a novel of De Balzac's, or Paul de Kock. Few years of married life are passed over, before a Russian couple are nothing to each other, and mutual delinquency is overlooked on both sides by tacit consent; appearances are scarcely studied, and it is by no means an uncommon thing to see a man's natural children brought up by his wife. Both manage their "affaires de cœur" with the most perfect coolness imaginable, of which the following anecdote is an example. A nobleman's wife, and the mother of his children, was the object of the attentions of a

person of higher rank, and greater riches than himself. This induced her to accept them; but far from its interrupting the intercourse of the husband and wife, she frequently passed a part of her time with him and her grown-up daughters, and when her paramour's carriage arrived for her in the evening, her husband would say, in the presence of his children, "Bon soir, ma chere, la voiture t' attend." This state of things works lamentably well for its own continuance, for how should parents thus circumstanced, command the love and esteem of their children?—nature speaks in vain. They grow up, without a sense of filial duty and respect towards either father or mother, and, consequently, without the latter for themselves. In after life, they take up the same routine of conduct. "Vive la bagatelle!" is the feeling of all. None of them live for themselves or their families. The women live for intrigue and effect; the men for intrigue, dissipation, and the government. Domestic happiness, therefore, the best and strongest evidence of true civilization, is very scarce. The progress of the latter will never be effected by Ukase, the secret Police, the

censorship, or the military system; the only hope for Russia is in the weaker sex. Could that canker, the love of admiration and display, be eradicated from, or even subdued in, *their* minds, the first point would be gained; and, as wives and mothers, they would exercise a useful ascendency over their husbands and children, which is now scarcely ever seen. With feelings thus ameliorated, the nobility would act with benevolence towards their serfs, and Russia might then have a prospect of becoming civilized; the former would be emancipated from the thraldom of their vices, and the latter from their chains. It was my good fortune to know ladies of sense and feeling, who would justify these anticipations; they had strong, cultivated, and refined minds, elegant manners, and good hearts; but they *appeared* only in society, they *lived* at home. Unfortunately, there is no middle class, who, in other countries, contribute so essentially to the progress of civilization in general, and to the cultivation of the domestic duties and virtues more particularly. It will be long, therefore, before much can be achieved,—it must be a work of time.

It is very questionable whether the colonization, which has been encouraged to so great an extent in Russia, to instruct the population in agriculture, has been attended with success, or indeed any beneficial effects. The vices of every other country have been introduced with the individuals thus settled, for, as I have observed elsewhere, they are the worst and most degraded characters of their respective nations. The policy of Peter the Great, which succeeding sovereigns have generally taken for their guide, was to bring foreigners of experience and dexterity, in various arts, into Russia; but though he travelled abroad, and studied himself, he sent very few of his countrymen to be educated and enlightened by the same means. The system of employing foreigners has been continued, and excellence in the mechanical and other arts, in consequence, retained amongst them and their descendants. Little emulation has been created in the national mind, and very few native artists have risen to compete with those which are still continually introduced; and yet Russians have the vanity to assert, that they can do without foreign assist-

ance;- absurd as it may seem, there is not a *Russian* apothecary in the empire.

All the factories are managed by foreigners. Mr. Baird, the head engineer at St. Petersburgh, is an Englishman, and the statues and iron framework of the dome of the Isaac church, were cast in his foundry. The architect of this magnificent building is a Frenchman. At Alexandrefsky the factory for playing-cards is under the superintendence of Mons. De la Rue, the cotton factory under that of General Wilson; the linen department of the same establishment is under another Englishman: The principal part of the Rev. Mr. Law's congregation there, consists of the workmen of the factories, and that of the Rev. Mr. Camidge at Moscow, of artizans from the private ones in and near that city. The arsenal, and government establishment for the manufacture of fire-arms, at Tula, is conducted by Mr. Jones; the machinery for the new works erecting there is under Mr. Trewheller; his son has the care of the gardens, water-works, and palace at Peterhoff; the head of the army medical staff is Sir A. Wylie; in the engineer department there are many distinguished Frenchmen

and other foreigners; the plans for the military works erecting at Sevastopol, were given by a gentleman of that nation, and the engineer for the construction of the docks there, is an Englishman; the principal architect at Nicolaieff is the same; the head of the commercial school at St. Petersburgh is Mr. Bagster, also of that nation, and almost all the professors of their universities are foreigners. These are but a few instances; hundreds might be named, for every department of the state swarms with Germans.

The Russian workmen, being good imitators, act well in the subordinate parts, where they are not required to originate an idea for themselves. I was much amused by the copying propensities of the man from whom I ordered a leather strap. To give him, as I thought, a notion of what I wanted, I cut a strip of paper of the width and length I wished it to be, and snipped a few holes for the tongue of the buckle without much precision. When it came home, it was a perfect facsimile of my pattern, notched at the edge, all the holes crooked, and at different distances. But this is a trifle to the anecdote related by a

summer tourist, of a piano forte that was made by a man who had never seen but one in his life. "I never heard of your having invented any thing but the somovar," said a Frenchman to a Russian nobleman in my presence; he had been twenty-five years in the country, and was a very good judge. The Russian had not a word to say in reply, though he had been a pupil of La Place, and professed to have corrected some of his problems.

The treatment of servants, generally serfs, is another proof that their social system is degraded indeed. In the more wealthy families, the upper ones are occasionally foreigners; these are comfortably off, for they take care to be so by their agreements. The native servants of this class are in many families, I may say, generally, the only ones who are accommodated with beds, so absolutely necessary to cleanliness and comfort. The whole of the under servants go without. In winter they lie down in their clothes close to the large brick stove, of which there is one in each room, or on the top of it, if it is low enough to admit of their getting upon it without much trouble. Others sleep in the kitchen, or on the

landings; here, before stretching themselves, they play a game at heads and tails, or cards, and when this is concluded, turn round three times like a dog, lie down, and take their rest. At day-break they resume their occupations without much more preparation than that animal—they awake, shake themselves, and their toilette is complete.

In Odessa, even the colonist servants, if they have any beds of their own, bring them with them, but they never expect to have them found by those who engage them. Not only my eyes, but my very ears were awakened to a sense of the dirty habits of Russian servants. One morning, while occupied in writing a letter, a very odd squirting kind of noise outside the door interrupted me in my agreeable occupation—for it was one to home. I went out into the passage to ascertain the cause, and found my neighbour's housemaid ironing her mistress's lace collars and "postizos," but this did not account for it. I re-entered my room, but had scarcely got seated once more at my desk, when it was again heard "whisht, whisht;" I looked out again, and again, and at last caught the abigail in the very act of filling her mouth with water, which she

discharged over a richly embroidered muslin dress, to damp it before ironing. This was done with a good deal of method by first puffing out her cheeks, and then slapping them sharply with both hands.

CHAPTER XXI.

Serfs—Chérémétieff's—No prospect of emancipation—Their price—Sufferings—Revenge—Decency—Love of ardent spirits—Natural good qualities—Superstition—Fasting—Feasting—Singular custom.

AMONGST the proprietors of serfs, Counts Chérémétieff and Stroganoff are said to be the largest; the former has nearly one hundred thousand. In conversation with foreigners the Russians prefer calling them by the more euphonious name of *peasants*; but they are serfs—ay, slaves. Those who talk the most of the imperative duty of kindness to them, are most deficient in the performance of it. Many argue that they are utterly insensible to any thing of the sort.

Some of Count Chérémétieff's are merchants, and very wealthy. The riches of a serf are generally

obtained by procuring his master's permission to leave his estate, and follow some trade in a town, where he can without interruption turn a small capital and his natural shrewdness to account. This boon is well paid for if he is successful. In the country, in cases where the landlord's cupidity does not interfere with the provision made by the law for the serf's benefit, they sometimes accumulate large sums, for they spend but little upon themselves, and an increase of wealth does not make that alteration in their habits which might be expected. The custom is to allow the serf three days of the week to cultivate the portion of land assigned to him by his master, for whom he works the other three; and in this case also he sometimes reaches a state of comparative affluence. But this custom is far from being universal, and is frequently abrogated altogether; the proprietor takes the land into his own hands, and makes the life of his bondsman like that of the Israelites of old under their Egyptian taskmasters. Other noblemen allow him two days or one, or give him up the land upon his paying a certain yearly rent.

Many of Count Chérémétieff's serfs could of

course, if permitted, purchase their freedom, but this nobleman has no idea of allowing them to take advantage of their own industry; on the contrary, it is a subject of self-gratulation with many to possess rich serfs, and it is affirmed that Chéré-métieff is so proud of his that no sum would tempt him to give them their liberty. A worthy descendant, truly, of his ancestor in the days of Catherine! With this man there is no plea of necessity, but it gratifies his vanity, for it has an effect when he invites foreigners to his country-seat. On these occasions, the Count is received by one of his rich serfs in a mean hut built in the usual style of a Russian log-house, and fitted up with the rudest furniture, the table is covered with the coarsest linen, and a black loaf with some salt, and a wooden bowl of borsch * are placed upon it. The party merely taste this humble refreshment, when the door leading to another house at the back is opened, and the noble proprietor and his friends are then ushered into an apartment handsomely furnished. The table here is loaded with plate, glass, fruit, and a profusion of

* A national soup.

viands, in the arrangement of which little taste is displayed, and champagne, quass, and votka are served, one as freely as the other. The guests leave the house astonished at such an entertainment given by a Russian serf, fancying perhaps that under the circumstances the man is as well pleased to be a slave as free, and in some cases they are likely to be right. In all probability, the serf who has thus feasted his master and his friends can scarcely read, knows nothing of figures, counts with beads, and has a beard of enormous length; he makes, however, large sums of money, for he is shrewd, cunning and saving. His moments of extravagance are, when as in this case, he receives his lord, or at one of his own children's weddings.

When Count H., of Kharkoff, gives large parties, he takes pleasure in making the wealthiest of his serfs put on his liveries and wait at table. One of them, a clever watchmaker, offered him a large sum for his emancipation, but his request was refused, and the Count's answer was, "No, pay me five hundred roubles a-year, I will not exercise my power, but I will never part with it."

A woman, the Countess Orloff, has been the first to set her countrymen the glorious example of giving freedom to the serfs, but it is lamentable how few have followed in her steps. The power over them at the present moment is absolute; the instances of their being sold without the land are notorious, for the ukase against the practice is constantly evaded. I knew a foreigner, but naturalized, who had a very clever tailor. This man had been brought up under a Schneider at Moscow at a considerable expense. On his return to the estate, he committed so many thefts and depredations, that his master determined to get rid of him, and when this became known, many persons offered large sums of money for him. Most fortunately for the public, his owner's resentment was greater than his love of gain, and he was sent off to Siberia. That he could have sold him no one who knows any thing of Russia will for a moment doubt.

Hundreds of serfs are taken from the east and central parts of Russia to the Crimea, and are there let out on hire for the benefit of their proprietors, much in the same way as hack-horses are

in this country.* Though in an indirect manner, I have known them sold in the streets and market-place of Kief. The men only are reckoned as souls,—if young and healthy they usually fetch a thousand roubles a-head; a woman that is *no soul* costs only five hundred. Serfs are often staked at the gaming table; and I knew of one who was bartered for a pointer.

The Russians call the Circassians slave dealers; what are they themselves, with all their civilization? The treatment of the serf depends entirely on the temper, caprice, good nature, brutality, or kindness of his master; he may flog him like his dog, without assigning any reason for so doing. The man never dreams of applying to the law for protection; he cannot leave his village without a pass, and this his owner is not likely to grant to carry a complaint against himself. The dread of meeting with worse punishment for murmuring is so great, his chance of obtaining redress so

* As they have been to the contractors of the Warsaw Railway within the last two months, who engaged to pay, independently of their monthly stipend, seven hundred roubles a-head for those that died.

hopeless, that he sometimes submits to atrocities which make one shudder. Can it be believed, and still it is a *fact*, for I knew the instance, that a noble ordered a young peasant girl to be brought to him from his estate, and, in spite of her entreaties, and regardless of such a horrible outrage on humanity, sacrificed her to his profligacy. This is, no doubt, a rare example, in all probability, unique; but in what estimation ought the civilization of a country to be held, the *laws* of which are so completely a dead letter to the great mass of the population, that such an action can be committed with impunity, and where society is on such a footing, that the perpetrator of the deed can still retain his place in it?

But if the tyranny, as in this case, becomes *more* than *excessive*, the serf sometimes takes the law into his own hands, and assassinates his lord. In this way a village will occasionally rise "en masse;" and about three years ago, the inhabitants of one in the Ukraine put their proprietor into his own oven; being no Fire-king, he was killed. On this occasion, a military force was sent down to the estate, inquiry took place, and punishment

followed; the delinquents received the knout, and were sent to Siberia, for no matter what the tyranny had been which led to this retaliation, of course serfs must not bake their masters: the tragedy was soon forgotten.

When a proprietor is absent from his estate, his village is given up to a grinding agent, frequently a military man; retired colonels are often employed in this capacity, who carry their ideas of authority from a *Russian* parade and *barrack-room*, and, in executing the duties of their situation, make use of their power in a corresponding spirit of severity. Nothing is done to ameliorate the habits of the serf, which are dirty in the extreme, more particularly in the towns; and though they sometimes use the vapour bath, they seldom or never wash themselves, or change their clothes or linen.

The pink shirt, or cotton caftan, that is put on new on Easter-day, is never removed from the wearer's back, excepting when he bathes. He works or idles, eats, drinks, and sleeps in it, and the clothes, as well as the hair and beard, are generally disgustingly filthy. The shoob, or sheepskin, is put on at the commencement of

winter, and as it is worn many years consecutively, it becomes at last black with grease: a bed is almost unknown amongst them.

In bathing, they sometimes take their families with them. At Odessa, I have seen the men with their wives, and children of both sexes, and of all ages, go into the sea together perfectly naked, and this in the open day, *close to the pratique port.* Nothing could be more praiseworthy than this act of cleanliness, for they had no means of washing themselves at home; there was not even a public pump; but they could have gone to a distance, and a division of the family circle might have taken place.*

Their great vice is a love of ardent spirits; this predilection is not extraordinary, for a hard drinking bout is the only excitement they have to vary the dull monotony of their existence. In many cases this practice is encouraged by the proprietors, for many have private distilleries on their

* But was this gross breach of decency to be wondered at, when, within the memory of a young inhabitant of the town, the women had been obliged to perform their spoglia on the beach without shelter or screen of any kind?

estates, which are a source of great emolument to them, and the depravity of the serf may be said to arise in a great measure from having such facilities of obtaining spirits. By nature, a Russian serf has as much intelligence and feeling as other men; he is retained in his degradation by his *civilized* master. It is quite wonderful the quantity of votka these people will swallow; it is generally drank new, and so strong that I can compare it to nothing but liquid fire when going down the throat. They think votka very wholesome, and sometimes give it to children at the breast; if they refuse to take it, the parents not unfrequently rub it on their heads. In spite of being so much addicted to raw spirits, extraordinary cases of longevity occur. The two following are from a paper, published by the government in 1839: one man, one hundred and forty-five years old, died near Bender, and the other at Tobolsk at one hundred and forty. There were several upwards of a hundred; but I only noted these two.

Lent, and all fast days, are kept with much greater strictness in this than in any Catholic

country, and the poor may literally be said to fast, for they never eat anything but haricot beans, with rape oil and black bread during this season; and so bigoted and superstitious are they upon the point, that nothing would induce them to transgress this ordinance of their church.

A criminal who had murdered his mother at Odessa, was sentenced to receive the knout, and be banished to Siberia if he survived the punishment; he did so, and on his road there, the gang to which he was attached halted one day at a wretched pot-house on the road-side to obtain some refreshment. It was during Lent, but this miserable hovel was kept by a Jew, and he had therefore flesh, as well as fish and herbs to offer to his guests. "What will you eat?" said the host to the thieves, "fish or flesh?" "What!" said the matricide, "eat meat in Lent? Dog of a Jew! I have killed my mother, and would kill my father, too, rather than eat meat in Lent." A journeyman carpenter, who was at work at my house, asked for some bread; the servant gave him half a loaf: he took it, but knowing that we were foreigners, asked, before he began to eat, whether

we fasted? She answered in the negative, "Oh, then," said the man, "take back your bread; nothing would tempt me to taste it."

The nobility easily obtain dispensations, and fast merely the first or last week. The scenes that take place amongst the lower orders after all this abstinence are not a little extraordinary. There is a well-known custom amongst soldiers, called kegging, and a man who has taken an oath, or kegged himself, never to taste spirits for a certain time, seldom or never breaks his engagement; but "en revanche" he sometimes gets blind drunk the very hour this bargain with himself is up. The Russians, in the same way, practise a most rigid fast, but Easter Eve is looked forward to with great impatience, and twelve o'clock on that night with infinitely more eagerness than the hour of sunset is in the Ramadan. Long before midnight the steps of the churches, and the roads leading to them, are crowded with people laden with eatables of all kinds, which must be blessed by a priest before they can break their long fast. Every one brings something, according to his means, and the poor hoard up

every copeck during Lent for this occasion. There is, of course, a great variety in their offerings; the rich bring sucking-pigs and lambs, confectionary, poultry, and hams, while the serfs have loaves of bread, cakes, and hard eggs. Most of these are decorated with ribands and flowers; the eggs are generally of various colours, usually red, but some are gilt, and have saints, and all kinds of patterns, painted on them.* Many bushels are frequently collected in one house; they are boiled hard, and no one goes out without a few in his pocket, to keep up the following singular custom.

Ivan and Alexis meet in the street: the two friends stop, and each pulls out an egg; the former holds his in the hollow of his closed hand, in such a manner that the small end, only, can be seen; this Alexis endeavours to break, by tapping it with the end of his, but, not by any means, in a hurry, for a good deal of manœuvring is shown on the occasion, and it is some time before Ivan

* The custom of painting or colouring eggs is of ancient origin; Michaud, in his Histoire des Croisades, mentions, that they were brought as presents to the camp of the crusaders; which, says one of the old chroniclers, "pour l'honneur de nos personnes ont avaient peints de diverses couleurs."

has arranged his to his mind. At last, all is ready, and his friend gives the fatal blow. The one whose egg is broken loses; the victor pockets both, and says, "Christ is risen;" the other replies, "He is indeed risen." They then take off their hats, kiss three times, make a most profound bow, and part, to repeat the same ceremony at the corner of the next street. Another great event of the day is a general change of linen; the mujik puts on a new pink shirt, which lasts him till Easter comes round again.

CHAPTER XXII.

An Easter breakfast—Gormandizing—The weeping week—The ancients—Improvement of the serfs—Indifference of the nobility to the subject—False appearances—Guizot's definition of civilization—Conclusion.

THE nobility follow the same practice of having their first meal blessed by the priest; but he is invited to the house to perform the ceremony. At Odessa, Count Woronzoff gave a public breakfast, which was attended by all his friends and acquaintances, and by every "employé" in the town, high and low; for to have omitted going would have been considered, if observed, a pointed insult. The ceremony of blessing the "comestibles" had taken place before I arrived; and I found the room crowded to excess. The table presented as curious a melange as the steps of the church, though every

thing was laid out with great elegance; amongst the dishes, the most peculiar were lambs roasted whole, in honour of the day, which, being very young and lean, had a most disgusting appearance. I never saw a table cleared with greater rapidity, the lambs alone remained: the gormandizing, however, was interrupted at intervals by fresh parties of friends, when the *omni-bussing*, which had in some degree subsided, received a new impulse, and in their anxiety to get at one another, no slight confusion was created amongst the dishes and the company. It required a long purse and, a disposition to open it freely, to entertain such a set of hungry visitors in so handsome a manner. The wine, which ran like water, soon had sufficient effect to warm the hearts of all, both male and female, towards each other, and many who had previously been scarcely acquainted, were now to be seen locked in each other's embrace. The custom of kissing at Easter is carried to such an extent on this day, that a lady kisses her maid directly she awakes, and the whole of the females of the establishment are paraded at the door of her bed-room, to go through the

same ceremony. The lower orders, on leaving the Church, give way to every kind of excess, and remain in a muzzy state for a fortnight; scarcely a vodovosk will work, the inhabitants of Odessa are therefore obliged to lay in a stock of water for the week, and stale bread must be eaten for several days. The low wine-shops are crowded with company, and the gluttony is so great, that every article of food is raised nearly one-half in price. A fair, also, was held near the town, but it was very dull, the only amusement for the lower orders being a few roundabouts, in which the occupants appeared to sit more from necessity than pleasure; there was no hilarity of feeling, which, on such occasions shows itself amongst the population of other countries. The inmates from the "Pension des Demoiselles Nobles" went there in state, one day; quite an event to them, as they never leave their prison, or, rather, the grounds attached to it. I went into a low drinking booth with an acquaintance, and found one of Count W.'s grooms dancing a kind of fandango; the fellow put himself into every kind of odd attitude: variety appeared the only merit of his performance, which

was far from elegant, but, from the applause that followed, he was evidently considered a proficient. It was singular enough to find two English mountebanks at this fair; they had travelled all over Europe, and exhibited feats of agility and strength, so extraordinary, that they drew good audiences.

On Monday and Tuesday of the week after Easter, the churchyard is crowded by the lower orders, who go there to make merry over their relations and friends. I went there to witness their proceedings, which, I had been informed, had nothing of a lachrymose character about them. There is only one churchyard at Odessa, and though the members of each religion have a portion of ground to themselves, one common wall surrounds the whole. Here the followers of the Greek, the Catholic, and Protestant Churches, and the sectarians of each, the Jews and their sects, the Mahommedans and theirs, the Deist and the Atheist, lie side by side. The first, though professedly Christians, exhibited on this occasion a scene such as I shall not easily forget. On each grave was placed all kinds of good things, with a

large flask of votka in the centre, and the family sat round it, waiting for the priest to come and bless their brandy and provisions. These gentlemen did not keep them long waiting, for several of them were officiating in different parts of the churchyard. Each Papa was followed by a man with a large sack; the former, on coming to the grave, took his station at the head of it, with his assistant in the rear; the family rose on his approach, and stood cap in hand, while he recited the customary prayers; a great deal of crossing and genuflexion followed; the attendant then came forward with his sack, which was opened, and the priest having retired a little, his share of the eatables was put in; no one touched anything until this was satisfactorily arranged. In this manner, he went from grave to grave, never getting *graver*, for sometimes he got money as well as prog, and always finished with a glass of votka; without the latter the common people do not consider the ceremony complete. Sentries were posted in several parts of the churchyard to preserve order. In the villages of the interior, where there are none, these schnappes are taken so often, that

they have their due effect, and the bearded Bacchus, of the same stamp as Mr. Sabouroff's, frequently getting 'non compos,' falls upon a grave, and over some of his flock, before he retires. The affair thus auspiciously commenced, finishes by their all being blind drunk, when they roll about the graves, laugh, cry, fight, and kiss, calling upon their dead friends or relations, in terms either of kindness or cursing, according to the point of their character which is uppermost in their memory at the time. They are always accompanied by their children, and when they are too tipsy to go for more liquor themselves, they send them to get a fresh supply.

The gate of the churchyard was crowded with beggars, and persons selling tombstones made of the soft stone of the place, which, as I have said before, can be cut with a hatchet; they were mostly in the shape of a Greek cross, and appeared to meet with a ready sale; for many not only drink to the health of their departed friends, but erect monuments to their memory. This saturnalia, (unequalled, I should imagine, in ancient as well as modern times,) lasts two days, and is an astonishing instance of the manner in which the

Christian religion may be perverted by ignorance and superstition.

Though the practice of offering oblations and feasting over the tombs of the dead is of high antiquity, there is no reason for supposing that the ancients, though Pagans, conducted these ceremonies in the disgusting manner which the Russians do under the Christian dispensation, perverting it to suit their own gross and sensual ideas. On the contrary, they appear to have been conducted with great decorum, in honour of friends whom they regretted, and whose virtues they took that opportunity of mentioning with affection and respect.

" ——————Eurylochus
Held fast the destined sacrifice, while I
Scooped with my sword the soil, opening a trench
Ell wide on every side: then poured around
Libation consecrate to all the dead.
First milk with honey mixed, then luscious wine,
Then water, sprinkling, last, meal over all.
* * * * * * *
* * * * * * *
Piercing the victims next, I turned them both
To bleed into the trench: then swarming came
From Erebus the shades of the deceased.

ODYSSEY.

How solemnly these rites were conducted will appear by the fact that "in the simplicity of these primitive ages it was considered expedient to say nothing, rather than by speaking, to offend the deceased, or transgress the rules of truth, both of which were thought greatly criminal."

Dr. Adams, in his work on Roman antiquities, says that "these funeral feasts were divided into two classes, the first, solely in honour of the dead, the second both for the dead and living; the offerings of lettuces, bread, and eggs, were left upon the tomb, which, it was supposed, the ghosts would come and eat; and though, in the second, called Silicernium, the friends and relations of the deceased partook of the feast, there was no gluttony nor drunkenness." St. Augustine also notices this custom in the fourth century, and expresses his wonder "that men should heap meats and wines upon tombs, as if departed spirits required fleshly food."

After the Christian era, the custom resolved itself into a feast at Easter, in some parts of the Christian world, in commemoration of the death and resurrection of our Saviour. But however

misguided the feelings of reverential superstition, in which these customs originated, and were for years continued by the ancients, the merit even of this is lost to these modern ghoules: neither respect for the memory of their friends, nor a proper sense of what they owe to the Author of their religion, is the reason for celebrating these orgies, but to have an opportunity of indulging their coarse and degrading propensities; this state of demoralization is far too profitable to the priests for them not to perpetuate, although, according to Mr. Krusenstern, they are "all devoted to study."

Such is the mental state of forty-five millions of the Russian population, and such it is likely to remain. Their social condition is on a par with it, and has but a very little better prospect of improvement. The conduct of their proprietors towards them is in all respects devoid of any characteristics, which might be considered evidence of the civilization they lay claim to, and the constant accession to this class from the ranks of the army, of men devoid of education and generosity of feeling, renders the chance very prospective; the tyranny under which they suffered as sub-

ordinaces, they practise as masters. Even the generality of those who have had all the advantages of birth and education, whose nobility is of long standing, make but few attempts to elevate the character and condition of their dependants. The principal idea they have in connexion with their improvement, is to increase their value as *property*. A tailor is worth more than a labourer, but only a few get the benefit of this spurious benevolence. I knew a nobleman who, from similar motives, had his serf taught music; this man always played the piano forte at his quadrille parties in the country; at Petersburgh he did duty as a footman. Why do not those, who have both the means and power, patiently and earnestly persist in improving the habits of the serf? why do they suffer them to feed like swine, and not give them any idea of a decent deportment? The task would be difficult indeed to teach them to *appreciate* these things, but if only made to *do* them, it would be one step gained in a generation. This modest line of benevolence, however, would be unseen and unfelt, but by the poor and humble, and vanity forbids such waste of pains.

Whatever can be seen and admired must be done on a large scale, and with great éclât; what is never likely to add to the brilliancy of their parties, balls, or any thing pertaining to their amusements, remains in its pristine barbarism, in utter neglect. What can be said of the social state of a country, in which the articles of first necessity in a bed-room, must be made in all cases a part of the travelling equipage? To their vanity may be added insincerity of purpose, and there is a want of good faith, of principle and of kindness in their character, quite surprising; to use a homely comparison, "they are all outside, like a barber's block." Their civilization is of the head, not the heart; that epoch in it which gives urbanity, charity, kindness, elevated feeling, and a high sense of honour to the rich, and cleanliness, industry, and self-esteem to the poor, with free and respectful intercourse between them, has never yet dawned on this country.

In the heated atmosphere of the court, it has, like a badly-managed exotic, grown rampant and unhealthy;—it is not at the capital that the traveller can form a just opinion of Russian cha-

racter. The improvements of late years have progressed in a manner, and on subjects that make a great show, and induce the Russians, whose weak point this is, to think far too much of what has been accomplished; they look not to whether it is well or ill done, and they shut their eyes to the unsubstantial and empty character of what presents so captivating an exterior. "Experience is the mistress of fools," and they must study some time under her before they can hope to approach the present state of refinement of any other European nation. Their physical power will remain for centuries in advance of their civilization; the latter is in no way commensurate with the political position she has assumed.

One of the most talented writers of the present day, Mons. Guizot, calls "civilization a *fact;*" and says that "The first fact comprised in the word *civilization* is that of progress, of development; its application is identical with the idea of a people on the move, not for a change of locality, but of condition: of a people whose state is in the process of expansion and amelioration. Progress and development appear to me, the fundamental

ideas contained in the word civilization. What is this progress? what this development? Here stands the great difficulty. The etymology of the word seems to afford a clever and satisfactory solution; it says that it is the perfection of the civil life, the development of society, properly so called, of the relations of men amongst themselves. Such is, in reality, the first idea which presents itself to the human understanding when the word civilization is pronounced; the extension of the social relations, the imparting to them the greatest activity, the most perfect organization, are matters of immediate implication; on the one hand, an increasing production of the means which secure strength and happiness to society; on the other, a more equitable distribution amongst individuals of the strength and happiness produced." Enlarging upon this, he advances historical examples of the state of civilization through which different countries, ancient and modern, have passed; and he arrives at the following deduction:—"Two facts are therefore comprized in this great *fact*; it is based on two conditions, and is revealed by two symptoms—the development of social activity,

and that of individual activity, the progress of society and the progress of humanity. Wherever the external condition of man progresses, is quickened and ameliorated, wherever the internal nature of man is exhibited with lustre and grandeur —upon these two signs, the human race applauds and proclaims civilization, often even in spite of fundamental imperfections in the social state. Such, if I mistake not, is the result of the simple and nearly common sense examination of the general opinion of mankind."

Russia can indeed lay but little claim to civilization thus defined, which must be evident to any foreigner after he has drawn aside the brilliant but flimsy veil in which, on his arrival at the capital, he found every thing connected with the subject enveloped, and he will look in vain for just grounds upon which he can award to Russia a place amongst the civilized nations of Europe.

CHAPTER XXIII.

Leave St. Petersburgh — Stockholm — Chateau of Count Brahé — Upsala—Museum of Linnæus—The mines of Dannemora—A providential escape—Gripsholm—Ulricksdal—The Riddarhuset—The palace—The Swedish diet—The Gotha canal—Falls of Trolhatta—Locks there—Gottenburgh—Copenhagen—The wassail cup—Hamburgh—Home.

No foreigner can leave Russia, or rather, obtain a passport to do so, unless he has had his name advertised three times in the German and Russian newspapers, which will take ten days. It is immaterial from what point he takes his departure, for the rule is enforced at every town in the empire. This is done with a view of giving his tradesmen timely notice of his intention. But while the government is exerting itself in the laudable task of protecting its subjects from fraud on the one hand, its employés are fleecing the traveller on the other; and, before his passport is safe, the *eagles* and *triangles* have again to be propitiated.

In the provinces a trifle will go a good way with these gentlemen; but in the capital, peculation and knavery, like every thing else, is carried out on a grand scale.

The day at length arrived for our leaving this Northern Venice. We did so without regret, glad to escape from

"A land of tyrants and a den of slaves,"

to the capital of her less powerful, but infinitely more civilized, neighbours.

As the spire of the Riddarholm, under which repose the descendants of the Vasa, the gallant hero of Lutzen, and the chivalrous but erratic Charles, was seen in the distance, historical associations were once more awakened. Stockholm, after Constantinople, is, perhaps, the most beautifully situated of European capitals. The age and irregularity of the houses were pleasing and their varied colour formed an agreeable contrast to the lath and plaster and whitewashed buildings of St. Petersburgh.

There is much to be seen here, and at the royal residences in the neighbourhood. The numerous steamers which leave the capital every

morning and evening for the small villages and towns in the environs, enable the traveller to do so with very little trouble; Upsala is easily reached in a few hours by one of these small "dampschifts." This trip will include a visit to the château of Count Brahé, the descendant of the astronomer, where there is a curious collection of Swedish historical relics, and pictures by the old masters. The galleries, which look into the quadrangle of the castle, have many proverbs and quaint speeches, in almost every language, painted on the walls. There were several in French; one ran thus:—"Les amis sont comme les melons, il faut essayer plusieurs pour trouver un bon." The Count is called by the anti-court party, King of Sweden; Bernadotte is, no doubt, very partial to him; but there appears very little reason to believe that he takes any undue advantage of it.

The natural beauty of the scenery between the château and Upsala, and of Sweden generally, is delightful indeed to a traveller who had been toiling for weeks over the Russian steppes. The Cathedral of Upsala, a gothic pile of the thirteenth century, is simple in its architecture, and finely

proportioned: and the tomb of Gustavus Vasa is an object of veneration to all those who value that rare character—a pure patriot. Linnæus also is buried here. The museum, which goes by his name, one cannot accuse him of having collected; the animals are certainly *very curious*, for the feet, tails, heads, and ears of some of them have evidently been taken indiscriminately from several quadrupeds to form a whole, and the leopard's legs had been lengthened by sewing on cats' skins. The botanical garden is also in a very neglected state; but Sweden is poor—her misfortune, not her fault.

When at Upsala, I visited the celebrated iron mines of Dannemora, returning in the evening. The roads were excellent, and the posting good. There are two modes of descending into these mines; the first by the ladders, which are placed in a zig-zag position on each side of the pumps: the second, by one of the buckets, which brings up the ore. They are large enough to admit two persons; but from the great opening in the ground above, the chasm has an awful appearance, and it requires some nerve to descend, more par-

ticularly as the stage from which a person takes his seat projects some distance over the gulf; and, in doing so, it is necessary to creep into the bucket as it dangles over the abyss. The mines are very cold at the entrance, from the large quantities of snow that fall into the opening during the winter. A very singular and alarming circumstance occurred here a few years ago, though happily without any fatal result. A gentleman and his son, went down in one of the buckets, and when about a third of the distance, met a return one full of ore coming up. The workmen on these occasions always fend off, but the gentleman, ignorant of this, did not do so; the buckets met, and the one that was coming up got under the other; this was not observed by the men above, and the wheel going on, the ore bucket being much the heaviest of the two, turned the other over, and finally unhooked it. The gentleman and his son clung instinctively to the rope, and the bucket falling from under them was dashed from the rocky projections at the side to the bottom of the mine. The noise attracted the attention of the workmen, and the wheel was reversed; as this, however, was worked

by a horse, it was some time before the gentleman and his son were landed on the stage in safety, though in a state of exhaustion that would have rendered the delay of a very few moments fatal. Their progress up, when thus suspended between life and death, was watched with deep and intense anxiety by those who witnessed this exciting and distressing scene; and the person who related the anecdote to me concluded by saying, that the miners, though somewhat familiarized by the daily course of their occupations to dangers of various kinds, ejaculated short but fervent prayers for their preservation. These mines should be visited about twelve o'clock, when the loud explosions, from the blasting, echoed back by the iron walls of the numerous caverns and galleries, give additional effect to scenery of the wildest character. The whole of the mining apparatus is extremely primitive, and the pumps are worked by water at a considerable distance. Nearly all the iron produced here, which is of a very superior quality, goes to England.

The trip to Gripsholm is also interesting. In this castle kings Eric and John were imprisoned

for many years, and their dungeons are still shown. Here also the last Swedish monarch of the once powerful and illustrious house of Vasa passed the few months previous to his abdication—possibly a necessary though unfortunate one; but how different in all its circumstances to that of Peter the Third, dethroned by his own wife, and strangled in prison; or the still more barbarous and tragic end of Paul.

Drottningholm is another beautiful island with a very handsome palace on it. Rosendal, also a royal residence, or rather villa, may be visited either by land or water; and the drive to the grounds of Haga is beautiful. In the arsenal at Ulricksdal there is a very interesting collection of ancient armour; but it is, unfortunately, not arranged to the best advantage. There are nevertheless many soul-stirring relics to see; and amongst them, though "not very well set up," the horse ridden by Gustavus Adolphus, and the armour that he wore at the memorable battle of Lutzen. Tried in the school of *prosperity*, he lived guiltless of the misuse of power, and according to the epitaph on his tomb, a rare example

of truth and simplicity in such compositions, "Moriens triumphavit," for his country and his religion. If ever a hero fell in a just cause, and with a character unblemished, it was he of Lutzen. In loitering over these memorials of the bright parts of Swedish history, and even in carefully threading all its details, it is impossible to overlook the honourable fact, that it contains less of crime, vice, and bloodshed, than that of other nations. In their repeated and long-continued struggles for their independence against the Danes and Russians, and in civil strife, wanton cruelty cannot be laid to their charge, and as invaders they have ever given proof of a chivalrous disposition.

The Riddarhuset is a fine old pile; under its roof much has taken place to influence and ameliorate the condition, and advance the prosperity of Europe, especially Protestant Europe; as such it is an object of veneration to an Englishman who seeks for such recollections and memorials to enhance the pleasures of his wanderings. Much might be written of Stockholm, but Russia was the subject of my notes, and I therefore,

though with great reluctance, pass lightly over this infinitely more sacred and interesting ground. In the palace there is a collection of Scandinavian antiquities, worthy of careful observation; amongst the cornelian beads were some exactly similar to those given me at Nicolaieff by Mr. Arkroyd.

In the gallery of statues, on the basement story, there is a very fine Antinous in Parian marble. A few of the pictures are good. Amongst the portraits is one of Charles the Twelfth in his youth, when he first commenced his brilliant but unfortunate career; of Luther's father and mother, by Cranach; and one of Oliver Cromwell when young, but much flattered if those generally seen of this wonderful, talented, and useful hypocrite, really resemble him.

The palace is admirably situated at the edge of the water. The architecture is Grecian, and the town rises in an amphitheatre around it. The limited revenues of the Swedish crown scarcely admit of its being kept in a proper state of repair, and the interior has a forlorn appearance; the royal establishment occupies in comparison but a small portion of it. The cafés and gardens under the

bridge ' in front are generally crowded with company; and in the evening, steamers of four-horse power ply every quarter of an hour between them and the park of Rosendal; the voyage occupies just ten minutes. The fare is only eight skillings; indeed, every thing in Stockholm is remarkably cheap. The cafés and small theatres in this park are crowded by the inhabitants of an evening, and its extreme beauty accounts for its being such a popular place of resort.

The Swedes are not only a good-looking but a cheerful and contented people; and their free and independent deportment was in strong contrast to that of the serfs and their owners on the other side of the Baltic.

The Diet was sitting during our stay, we visited the chambers. The most striking to a stranger was the assembly of peasants, a body of which Sweden may be proud. The Dalecarlians, distinguished by a very plain but singularly cut dress, were very fine looking old men; the whole had the appearance of remarkably well dressed and respectable yeomen, with an intelligent though quiet expression of countenance, good features,

and rather heavy figures. The nobles looked like thorough gentlemen, fit to sit in such a hall as theirs, surrounded by the heraldry of ages. The clergy, in clerical costume, appeared tranquil and dignified members of their profession. A sharp discussion was going on amongst the "bourgeois," who seemed, as they do every where else, quicker and keener than their neighbours.

Our ambassador and consul have country houses at a short distance from the town, at both of which I was hospitably received; the latter, a distinguished member of the sister profession, must find Stockholm rather dull after such a life of adventure as his has been. We left this capital with regret, strongly impressed in favour of it and its gay and good-natured inhabitants.

We traversed the heart of Sweden by the Gotha canal and the lakes. As a piece of engineering the former is a stupendous undertaking, and a part being the work of Telford, makes it still more interesting in the eyes of an Englishman. It leads through very varied scenery, both of land and lake; and though the voyage to Gottenburgh occupied five days, it was impossible to complain of tedium.

Near Wreta, there are so many locks that the hill on which they are placed looks at a little distance as if it had a large staircase running up the side, and further progress for the steamer appeared impossible. We took this opportunity of rambling up to the old church there. The monuments are none of them very elaborate, though several are regal. The bleeding heart of the Douglas was on one of the escutcheons, and the family of that name still exists among the nobility of Sweden; their ancestors were at Lutzen. This church is of high antiquity, and prettily situated; and the old lady-sexton, with her bunch of keys and short jacket, looked equally venerable with the building.

The falls of Trolhatta were the most interesting objects on our route. They lay a little to the right of the canal in a wild mass of dark rocks clad in a forest of firs almost as sombre. This vast body of water, the only outlet from the Wener lake, comes rushing down, boiling, roaring, and foaming, with a force and noise that defy description. A tree which was thrown in to gratify our curiosity was borne away like a straw. The body of water is immense, and fully makes up for any want of

height. A small suspension bridge has been thrown from the side to a rock in the centre of the fall. From it the sublime and liquid hurricane may be seen and admired without any other inconvenience but a wetting from a shower of prismatic spray, which gives an additional beauty to this grand caprice of nature.

The most extraordinary and laborious cutting in the line is near here; there are nine locks excavated through a hill of granite. We moved down them at the dawn of day; and as we descended, the bats flitted about our heads in the dark and misty chasm into which the rays of the sun would not penetrate for some hours after. The country soon after assumed a cold and dreary appearance; the granite was too sterile for even the fir to grow. Approaching Gottenburgh, the bank of the river on either side was shallow and marshy, and vast quantities of reeds grew in the water to a considerable distance from the banks.

Before reaching our destination, we passed a very small, and now unimportant town which had once been the capital of Norway, and the ruins of a fine old castle. Gottenburgh, a neutral port during the war, carried on a large trade, and was

at that time a place of considerable importance. The business done was principally contraband, and enabled England to thwart and invalidate Napoleon's continental system. The only striking object at Gottenburgh is an establishment of baths, erected by subscription. This building is situated on the right of the landing-place. In the centre of the edifice, which is circular, is a large news-room, lighted from the dome. A passage runs round this and the baths, each of them consisting of a suite of two rooms, with every possible convenience for bathing and dressing, are entered from it. Here, as at Stockholm, the attendants are all women, who usually assist in the operation of removing the impurities of the bather, and with them his skin, by means of a scrubbing-brush; both, however, may be dispensed with.

The Danish mail-boat which took us to Copenhagen was a fine vessel, well manned, and came nearer an English one than any we had yet sailed in. A fine clear morning enabled us fully to enjoy the beautiful and animated scene off the Castle of Elsinore, and watching the numerous craft as they passed up the Sound, we had little time to think of Ophelia or the Prince. There

was nothing stirring in the harbour, and passing under the Crown and Trekroner batteries, we let go our anchor, fully alive to the merits and gallantry of those who had silenced them. From their position, as well as from the number of guns, they must have been awkward customers. The victory, however, purchased as it was by a sacrifice of our national honour, is hardly a gratifying subject of reflection to an Englishman.

There is much in Copenhagen to interest those who care for memorials of the old Norsmen and their heroes. The museum of Scandinavian antiquities is the finest in the world; the works of Thorwalsden, are superior to those of any living sculptor, and the Castle of Rosenberg is a perfect emporium of historical relics. In the valuable collection of glass in this palace, the "custode" shows a gigantic tumbler, formerly used as a wassail cup. Whoever drank from it, marked with his ring the depth of his draught, and inscribed his name at that point on the glass. These marks show that several of them could take a deep draught, though not like that of "the rolling Zuyder Zee," only one however had quaffed it to the dregs.

Steaming to Kiel, we passed through Holstein, the corn-lands of which appeared to be in excellent order, and arrived at Hamburgh without any further delay than that which usually attends German travelling. I know no town on the Continent where business and pleasure appear to go so much hand in hand as in Hamburgh. The counting-houses are left for the cafés on the Yungfernsteig every evening, where all classes appear to enjoy themselves. The kindness of an old friend enabled us to see more of the town and its environs than we otherwise should have done, and spend a fortnight most agreeably.

Our tour was now completed; the happiest moment of it, the hour of return, had at length arrived, and stepping on board the *John Bull*, we landed in England in time to see the last sheaf carried. God "speed" all travellers and "the Plough!"

THE END.

APPENDIX.

THE following is the official return of the troops assembled at the great review of Vosnesensk in the autumn of 1837. It will give the reader some idea of the scale on which they are conducted in Russia:—

General Count DE WITT—inspector of the cavalry of the military colonies commanding
Chief of the staff—Lieutenant-general ZADONSKY.
Quarter-master-general—Colonel LADIGENSKY.
Deputy chief of the staff—Colonel MARTOS.

FIRST CORPS OF CAVALRY OF RESERVE.

General NIKITINE, commanding.

Staff.

Chief of the staff—Lieutenant-general ZADONSKY.
Quarter-master-general—Colonel ROSELION SOCHALSKY.
Deputy chief of the staff—Lieutenant-colonel SINELNIKOFF.

FIRST DIVISION OF CUIRASSIERS.

Lieutenant-general KOSKUL, commanding.

Troops.	Commanders.	Squad.	Quarters.
First brigade.	Major-gen. Milen		
Regiments			
Of Ekaterinoslaff	Col. Toumansky .	8	Barracks.
„ H. I. H., the Grand Duke Michael	Col. Denissoff .	8	„
„ Second brigade.	Col. Pr. Gagarin		
Regiments			
Of Astrakan	Lt.-col. Milevsky .	8	„
„ Pskoff	Cl. Tchérémissinoff	8	„

FIRST DIVISION OF LANCERS.

Lieutenant-general PALITZINE, commanding.

Troops.	Commanders.	Squad.	Quarters.
First brigade.	Maj.-gen. Lisogoub		
Regiments			
Of Belgorod	Col. Bobileff	8	Barracks.
„ Tchougoueff	Col. Masurkevitz	8	„
Second brigade.	Maj.-gen. Arsenieff		
Regiments			
Of Borisogleb	Lt.-cl. Kolokoltzoff	8	„
„ Serpouchoff	Lt.-col. Vijitsky	8	„

ARTILLERY ANNEXED TO THIS CORPS.

Troops.	Commanders.	Guns.	Quarters.
The first division of horse artillery	Col. Tchadine.		
Batteries which compose it			
Battery "de position," No. 15	Lieut.-col. Skatchkoff	8	Encamped
„ Legère, No. 16	Capt. Kassovsky	8	„
„ „ No. 17	Lieut.-col. Schmidt.	8	„
„ „ No. 18	Lieut.-col. Kiriloff.	8	„

SECOND CORPS OF CAVALRY OF RESERVE.

Lieutenant-general Baron OSTEN-SACKEN.

Staff.

Chief of the staff—Major-general BRADKE.

Quarter-master-general—Colonel BALAKIREFF.

Deputy chief of the staff—Lieutenant-general SCHEVITCH.

SECOND DIVISION OF CUIRASSIERS.

Lieutenant-general JACHONTOFF, commanding.

Troops.	Commanders.	Squad.	Quarters.
First brigade.	Major-gen. Piller.		
Regiments			
Of the order of St. George .	Col. Englehardt .	8	Barracks.
„ Starodoub	Col. Reussner .	8	„
Second brigade.	Major-gen. Somoff.		
Regiments			
Of Prince Albert of Prussia .	Col. Count Rjevousky, A.D.C. to the Emperor . .	8	„
„ H.I.H. the Grand Duchess Helen	Col. Fitinghoff .	8	„

SECOND DIVISION OF LANCERS.

Lieutenant-general Baron KORF, commanding.

Troops.	Commanders.	Squad.	Quarters.
First brigade.	Major-gen. Prince Bagration		
Regiments			
Of the Ukraine . . .	Col. Lanskoy .	8	Encamped
„ New Archangel . . .	Col. Masloff . .	8	„
Second brigade.	Maj.-gen. Langel .		
Regiments			
Of New Mirgorod . . .	Lt.-col. Velitchko .	8	„
„ Elizavetgrad . . .	Col. Kalageorguy .	8	„

ARTILLERY ANNEXED TO THE SECOND CORPS OF CAVALRY OF RESERVE.

Troops.	Commanders.	Guns.	Quarters.
Second division of the horse artillery	Col. of the Guards, Gitoff.		
Batteries which compose it.			
Battery "de position," No. 19 .	Col. Pitchouguine .		
„ "legère," No. 20 . .	Lieut.-col. Schatilovitch . .	8	Encamped
		8	
„ „ No. 21 . .	Lieut.-col. Volf .	8	„
„ „ No. 22 . .	Col. Vruhel . .	8	„
		8	„

THIRD CORPS OF CAVALRY OF RESERVE.

The Aide-de-camp-general—General POTAPOFF.

Staff.

Quarter-master-general—Colonel ZANDEN.

Deputy —Colonel VINTOULOFF.

FIRST DIVISION OF DRAGOONS.

Lieutenant-general GERBEL, commanding.

Troops.	Commanders.	Squad.	Quarters.
First brigade.	Maj-gen. Montresor		
Regiments.			
Of Moscow	Col. Levenetz .	12	Encamped
„ Kargopol	Col. Pavlischeff .	12	„
Second brigade.			
Regiments.			
Of Kinbourn	Col. Engelghardt .	12	„
„ New Russia. . . .	Col. Boulanine .	12	„

SECOND DIVISION OF DRAGOONS.

Lieutenant-general GRABBE, commanding.

Troops.	Commanders.	Squad.	Quarters.
First brigade.	Maj.-gen. Schilling		
Regiments			
Of Kasan	Colonel Kroutoff, A. D. C. to the Emperor . .	12	Encamped
„ Riga	Col. Lebed . .	12	„
Second brigade.	Maj.-gen. Bartolomey . .		
Regiments			
Of Finland	Col. Zelensky .	12	„
„ Tver	Col. Bronevsky .	12	„

ARTILLERY ANNEXED TO THIRD CORPS OF CAVALRY OF RESERVE.

Troops.	Commanders.	Squad.	Quarters.
The third division of horse artillery	Col. Konprianoff		
Batteries of which it is composed.			
Battery "de position," No. 23.	Col. Vulfert . .	8	Encamped
„ "legère," No. 24.	Col. Sokoloff. .	8	„
„ „ No. 25.	Capt. of the guards, Kitch . .	8	„
„ „ No. 26.	Capt. Abramovitch	8	„

COMBINED CORPS OF CAVALRY.

Lieutenant-general GERSTENZVEIG.

Staff.

Quarter-master-general—Colonel LADIGENSKY.

Deputy „ —Colonel SCHTCHERBINSKY.

THIRD DIVISION OF LIGHT CAVALRY.

Lieutenant-general Baron OFFENBERG, commanding.

Troops.	Commanders.	Squad.	Quarters.
First brigade	Maj.-gen. Paradovsky		
Regiments of Lancers.			
H.R.H. the Prince of Nassau .	Col. Pencherjevsky	10	Field cantonments.
Of Volhynia	Col. Leschern .	10	„
Second brigade.	Maj.-gen. Plaoutine		
Regiments of Hussars			
Of Prince Witgenstein . .	Col. Bogouchevsky	10	„
„ the Prince of Orange . .	Col. Ct. O'Rourke	10	„

FIFTH DIVISION OF LIGHT CAVALRY.

Lieutenant-general GLASENAP, commanding.

Troops.	Commanders.	Squad.	Quart
First brigade.	Mj.-gen. Borschoff.		
Regiments of Lancers			
Of the Bug	Lieut.-col. Glotoff .	10	Field cantonments.
„ Odessa	Col. Launitz . .	10	„
Second brigade.	Major-gen. Grotenhelm.		
Regiments of Hussars			
Of Achtirka	Col. Wrangel .	10	„
„ Alexandria	Col. Norvert . .	10	„

ARTILLERY OF THE COMBINED CORPS OF CAVALRY.

Troops.	Commanders.	Guns.	Quarters.
The combined division of horse artillery	Col. Strik.		
Batteries of the Third Brigade of horse artillery			
"Legère" No. 5 . . .	Lt.-col. Matveeff .	8	Encamped
„ No. 6 . . .	Captain Hahn .	8	„
Batteries of the Fifth division of horse artillery.			
"Legère" No. 9 . . .	Col. Bruggen .	8	„
„ No. 10 . . .	Captain Vrjossek .	8	„

Total of the Four Corps . . Squadrons 304.

„ . . Guns 128.

TROOPS NOT INCLUDED IN THE FOUR CORPS OF CAVALRY.

Troops.	Commanders.	Squad.	Quarters.
Cavalry.			
First. Combined squadron of cavalry of the Guards composed of two sub-divisions of the Grand Duke Michael's, Lancers, and two of the Hussars of Grodno . . .	2nd Captain of the Hussars of the Guards of Grodno, Jouraga .	1	Barracks.
Secondly. 1st and 2nd squadr. of the reserve of Lancers and Hussars of the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 6th, and 7th divisions of light Cavalry	. . .	40	„
Thirdly. Gens d'armes . .	. . .	3	„
Fourthly. The division of horse Pioneers	Col. Kaulbars .	2	„
	Totals. . .	46	

Troops.	Commanders.	Battal.	Quarters.
Infantry.	Maj.-gen. Stepanoff		
First. The combined battalion of the Guards and Grenadiers composed of two companies of the Guards, one of the regiment of Lithuania and the other of the regiment of Volhynia, and two companies of the corps of Grenadiers called the Grenadiers of the Emperor Francis I., and his Majesty, the King of Prussia . .	. . . .	1	
Secondly. Battalions of reserve of the regiments of Grenadiers			
Of Count Roumiantzoff . .	. . .	1	
„ Prince Suwaroff . . .	. . .	1	
„ the Carbineers of Astrachan	. . .	1	
The division of reserve of the 5th corps d'armée.			
The 5th Battalions . . .	Lt.-gen. Hartung .	12	
„ 6th „	„	12	
		28	

Troops.	Commanders.	Guns.	
Artillery.			
One battery of foot-artillery combined of the Guards and Grenadiers	Col. Drake . .	8	
Of the Line.			
2 batteries of foot-artillery of the reserve	. . .	16	
2 „ horse „ . .	. . .	16	
		40	
"Compagnies du train" annexed to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd corps of Cavalry	. . .	32	Companies.
Cantonistes of the 2nd corps of Cavalry reserve, and of the combined corps of Cavalry .	. . .	24	Squadrons
Artillery	. . .	3	Batteries.

GRAND TOTAL.

Cavalry	350	Squadrons.
Infantry	28	Battalions
Artillery	168	Guns.
Wagon Train	32	Companies.
Cantonistes	24	Squadrons.
Artillery	3	Batteries.

Taking the squadrons at one hundred and sixty men each, and th battalions at seven hundred and fifty, the cavalry at this review amounte to 59,840, and the infantry to 21,000. The men who composed a grea part of the cavalry of this force were chiefly from the military colo nies in the south of Russia, established by the Emperor Alexander The head quarters are at Elizavetgrad and Vosnesensk. Calculated ac- cording to Marmont, at one hundred and eighty men to the squadron, the numbers would be 67,320. The former, however, will be nearer their strength, for though these troops are kept in a very effective state, they are never actually complete.

The tract of country in which these colonies are situated was formerly occupied by the Zaporogues, but after their expulsion it became govern-

ment property. The mode pursued in the formation of these military establishments was simple and arbitrary enough:—a division of cuirassiers was sent from St. Petersburgh and quartered on the inhabitants, who also belonged to the crown, and however much against their inclinations, were obliged to adopt the profession of their unwelcome guests, and receive instruction in their new duties from them. The rising generation do not, of course, feel the hardship of such a transition; the vacancies caused by retirement or death are filled by their children, (cantonistes,) who are brought up as soldiers from their infancy. These military agriculturists, for each family has a piece of ground to itself, are in excellent order, and the project has so far succeeded. The policy, however, of establishing them is more than questionable, those in the north of Russia having once revolted. At this review a small wooden town was erected in the neighbourhood of Vosnesensk. The apartments of the Emperor, his suite, and those of the general officers, were magnificently furnished, and balls were the "general order" of the day. But the review! ah, that was another affair; those who were ridden over saw a little of what was going on, those at a distance nothing. The steppe was in clouds of dust which hid the greater part of the operations.

VOCABULARY.

THE vowels in this vocabulary should be pronounced as in the Italian language—the French pronunciation is not so suitable, on account of the difference in the *u*, as the following example, the name of the town *Tula* will show; it is pronounced as if written in English *Toola*. In all cases the *j* is used as an English consonant, and pronounced rather soft. This accent ¯ over a vowel is to lengthen it. It must be observed that this short collection of words and phrases is not given with any pretension to that accuracy which is so difficult of attainment in expressing the pronunciation of one language by the alphabet of another, which difficulty is, perhaps, greater in Russ than almost any other in Europe; but it is sufficiently correct to be in some degree useful to a stranger in the country.

NUMBERS.

One	Adīn	Seven	Sem
Two	Dvā	Eight	Vosem
Three	Tri	Nine	Devitt
Four	Tchetiri	Ten	Decitt
Five	Piatt	Eleven	Adīn-natzatt
Six	Tchiest	Twelve	Dva-natzatt

and so on always adding *natzatt* to each number up to

Twenty	Dvatzatt
Twenty-one	Dvatzatt adin
Twenty-two	Dvatzatt dvà

and so on, always adding the unit up to one hundred.

Thirty	Tritzatt	Seventy	Semdisiatt
Forty	Sorok	Eighty	Vosemdisiatt
Fifty	Pitdisiatt	Ninety	Devitnosti
Sixty	Tchiesdisiatt	Hundred	Sto

TIME.

A year	Gōd	A day	Den
A month	Mesetz	An hour	Tchass
A week	Nedilia		

DAYS OF THE WEEK.

Monday	Ponidilnik	Friday	Piatnitza
Tuesday	Vtornik	Saturday	Subota
Wednesday	Sirida	Sunday	Voskrisinie
Thursday	Tchitverg		

To eat	Kuchatt	Town	Gorōd
To drink	Pitt	Street	Oulitzka
To breakfast	Zavtricatt	Square	Plotchad
To dine	Obidatt	Church	Tserkov
To sup	Orejinatt	House	Dvor
A roast	Jareno	Shop	Lafki
A fowl	Kuritza	Parade	Platz parad
A chicken	Tzeplenok	Barrack	Kazarm
Beef	Goviadini	Bridge	Mōst
Veal	Tiliatini	River	Reka
Ham	Vitchili	A village	Driviniu
Soup	Supa	Road	Daroga
Potatoes	Kartoffel	Post station	Stanitza
Apples	Tabloki	Market	Rynok
Pears	Gruchi	Quay	Bereg
Cucumbers	Ogartzi		
Salt	Sōli	To write	Picatt
Salted	Solini	I shall write	Lapaichu
Pepper	Pepe	Paper	Bumāg
Bread	Kliber	Ink	Tschernaila
Butter	Masla	Pens	Piro
Eggs	Yaitzi	Pencil	Karandash
Milk	Malako		
Wine	Vina	A carriage	Kareta
Corn Brandy	Votka	A post cart	Telega
Beer	Piva	A wheel	Kolesso
Coffee	Caffé	The pole	Dichlo
Water	Vodi	A cord	Verevka
Hot water	Goriatche vodi	A trunk	Sundūk
Cold water	Kolodne vodi	A blacksmith	Kunitza
Tea-urn	Somovar	Horse	Loshad
Tea-pot	Tchainik	Horses	Loshadei
A pail	Vedro	Hay	Sena
A bottle	Botilku	Straw	Solome
A glass	Stakan		
A wine-glass	Riumka	Drosky driver	Istvostchik
A knife	Nojik	Postilion	Yemstchik
A fork	Vilka	Employé	Chinovnik
A spoon	Loshka	Waiter	Tchelovik
The stove	Petchki	Traiteur	Traktir
A light, or fire	Agōn	Porter	Dvornik
A napkin	Solfetka	Water-carrier	Vodovosk
A duster	Tripka		
A dress of skins	Shoob	Yes	Dà

No	Niett
Very well, good	Karosho
Not right, bad	Nikarosho
Do better	Zdelaitutchi
They cannot	Nelzia
Bring	Preneçeti
More	Estcho
Enough	Davolno
Not enough	Nidavolno
Too long	Dalgo
Half	Polovina
Quarter	Tchetvert
Great	Bolshoi
Small, little	Malo
Old	Staraia
New	Novaia
If you please	Pojalusta
Thank you	Blardaste
Good morning	Zdrastuite
Good bye	Prostchaite
Follow me	Stajite-mne
Let us go (on foot)	Poidem
Let us go (in a carriage)	Poedem
This way, here	Ettasudè
Give us	Daite nam
What is it?	Tschto takoi?
Hark! hear!	
Listen!	Poslūchi!
How do they call it?	Kakzavut?
What does it cost?	Tschto stoite?

It is dear	Dorogo
It is cheap	Dechevo
I don't know	Nisnaiu
It does not want	Nenada
I won't have	Nikatzehu
Go to the bath	Poitei vannu
Is it ready?	Gotovoli?
Set the tea-urn	Stav somovar
Who is there?	Kto-tām?
In how many hours?	Tcheres skolko tchasaff?
What's o'clock?	Katoritchass?
Pass the night here	Zdess notch chivatt
Is it possible?	Mojnoli?
How many versts?	Skolki verst?
Are the horses to?	Zapriajini Loshadei?
What is there to pay for them?	Skolko progōn?
Drink money	Na votka
I will give you drink money	Dam na votka
I will not give you drink money	Nidam na votka
Go on	Poshōll
Drive gently	Tishe or pomālo
Hurry	Scorri
Stop	Stoi
Draw back	Nazad
To the right	Na prava
To the left	Na leva

A verst is two-thirds of an English mile.

The Russian foot is the same as the English.

1 Sajène	7 feet English

The inch is also the same as the English.

An archine	28 inches

RUSSIAN WEIGHTS.

68 grains	zolotnik
96 zolotniks	1 pound
40 pounds (36 English avoirdupois) .	1 pood

RUSSIAN MONEY.

GOLD.

The gold imperial . . .	40 paper roubles
„ pol (or half) imperial .	20 „ „
„ quarter	10 „ „

(This varies with the agio on gold.)

There is also the gold ruble, but it is a very scarce coin . . . 5 „ „

SILVER.

	Silver copecks.	Copper copecks.
The silver rouble is equal to . .	100	or 350
„ half „ „ .	50	„ 175
„ quarter „ . marked	25	„ 87½
„ a fifth „ „ . „	20	„ 70
„ „ „ „ . . „	15	„ 52½
„ a tenth „ „ . „	10	„ 35
„ a twentieth „ . . „	5	„ 17½

COPPER.

Ten-copeck pieces are marked . . .	10
Five „ „ „	5
Three „ „ „	3
Two „ „ „	2
One „ „ „	1

There is also a half-copeck piece and a quarter.

PAPER.

All notes of the value of twenty-five roubles, *paper*, or above that number, are on white paper.

Those on pink paper are of ten roubles, *paper*.

„ blue „ five „

These notes are being withdrawn, and others are issuing of the value of a certain number of silver roubles; these are on white paper.

A *silver rouble* is worth about three shillings and fourpence.

A *paper rouble*, which is equal to 28¾ silver, or 100 copper copecks, is worth from elevenpence to elevenpence halfpenny, according to the exchange, which fluctuated a good deal some years ago, particularly in Odessa. It has lately been more steady.

W. Tyler, Printer, Bolt-court, Fleet-street.

00086051

Digitized with financial assistance from the
Government of Maharashtra
on 20 February, 2016